

Hafa Adai!

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Rota resident brought to PIC

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

A man who arrived on Rota by boat from Guam was quarantined at his home for 14 days before he was brought to the quarantine site at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan in San Antonio by a Department of Public Safety boat last June 14.

See ROTA on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Isolation, quarantine contracts ending

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has asked the Federal Emergency Management Agency for permission to extend the contracts for both the isolation site at Kanoa Resort in

Susupe and the quarantine site at the Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio, weeks before both contracts come to an end.

And although PIC's contract will be ending by the See ISOLATION on Page 4

Public comments sought on Navy plans

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

The U.S. Navy plans to continue using the Farallon de Mendenilla for target practice and doing underwater sonar training in the Mariana Islands

and is asking the public if it has any comments about this.

The Navy published last June 5 its final study on the potential environmental impacts associated with its military exercises and will wait See PUBLIC on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, June 15, 2020

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	185	0	185
Recovered	168	1	169
Active	12	-1	11
Deaths	6*	0	6*
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	8,820		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	30	0	30
Active	9	0	9
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested**	8,169		

*Total includes a sailor from the USS Theodore Roosevelt.

**Total includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. has stopped posting the number of recoveries in the CNMI. As the CHCC moves forward into village-based testing for COVID-19 and the suspension of the community-based testing at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, the CNMI's cumulative number of persons tested remains the same.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Health Care Corp.



MOTORCADE GRADUATION

A motorcade of Mustangs make for a festive sight along Beach Road, with Golden Harvest International School starting the graduation ceremony of its Class of 2020 with a motorcade last Saturday, June 13. The school later continued with a drive-thru graduation ceremony at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion that started around 10am.

KRIZEL TUAZON

'It's open to everyone'

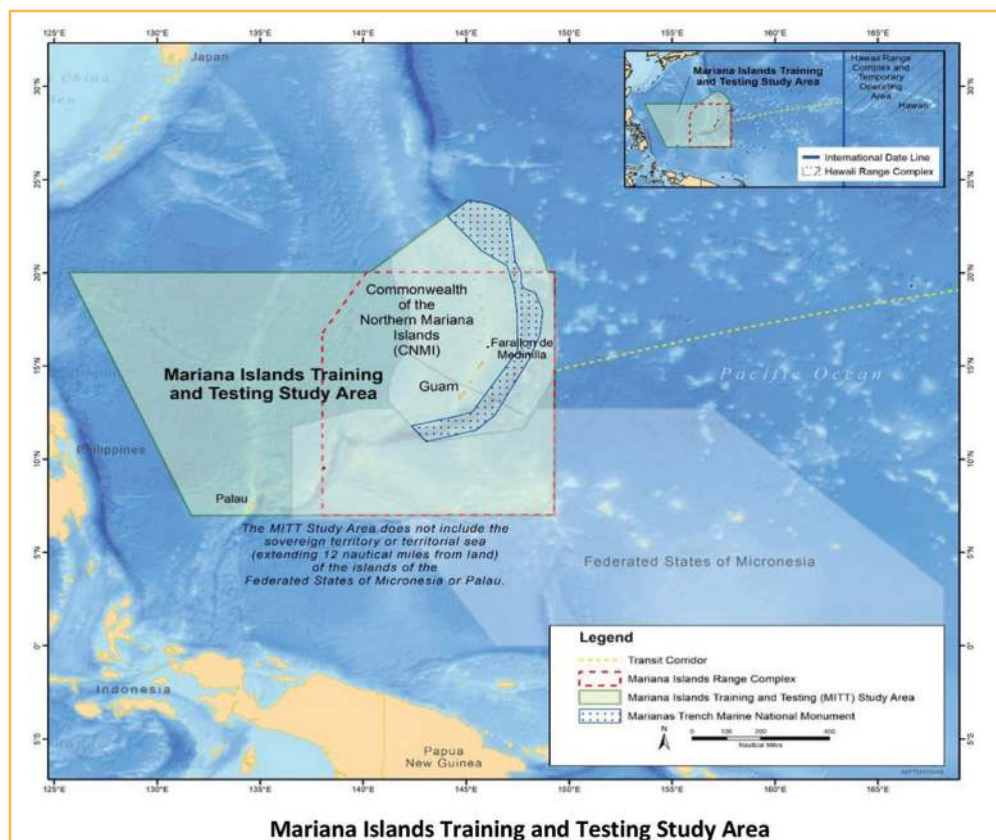
» Torres responds as minority makes public expense records

By IVA MAURIN
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

"It's public record. ... It's open to everyone."

Thus said Gov. Ralph DLG

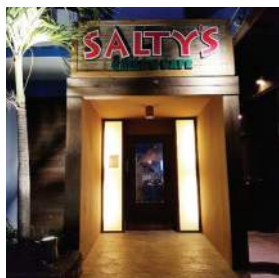
Torres on Monday, in response to the move of some opposition lawmakers to put online Torres' spending from October 2014 to December 2019, following an Open Government Act Request with the See OPEN on Page 4



Mariana Islands Training and Testing Study Area. Source: Mariana Islands Training and Testing Final Supplemental EIS/OEIS, June 2020.

MITT

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Salty's Grill and Café continues to serve their unique fusion Chamorro and Japanese dishes.

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NATION

In a rare turnabout, President Trump tweets that he has moved a planned rally to this Saturday.

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ASIA

Maria Ressa, online news site Rappler, and a former reporter are found guilty of libel.

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Local

IPI is notified of its rights in 2nd writ of execution

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI clerk Heather Kennedy notified Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC on Thursday about the court's second writ of execution that orders the U.S. Marshal service to seize IPI's money from two title companies to satisfy a \$6.9-million judgment.

Kennedy informed IPI that the second writ of execution was issued because of the outstanding judgment against the company. "It may cause your property to be held or taken to pay the judgment. You may have legal rights to prevent your property from being taken," she said.

The law provides that certain property cannot be taken and that such properties are said to be exempt, she said. "There may be exemptions that may be applicable to you. You may have other rights," Kennedy told IPI.

If there's an exemption,

Kennedy said IPI should demand a prompt hearing from the court. "You should come to court ready to explain your exemption. If you do not come to court and prove your exemption, you may lose some of your property," she said.

District Court Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona earlier found Pacific Rim Land Development LLC's second application for writs of execution to have met the requirements of Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and a Commonwealth statute.

Manglona ordered Kennedy to issue the writs of execution as requested by Pacific Rim on Security Title Inc. and Pacific American Title Inc.

In its second application for writ of execution, Pacific Rim, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, informed the court that IPI maintains cash accounts in the CNMI in Security Title Inc. and Pacific American Title Inc. and asked the court to direct the transfer

of money owned or controlled by IPI from these title companies. Thompson asked the court to hold IPI's money in the court's registry or account until after hearing on exemptions, if any.

Thompson said IPI has not posted a bond and has not obtained an order staying or suspending execution on a \$6.9-million judgment.

Last June 8, Manglona granted Pacific Rim's first application for writs of execution on IPI's bank accounts. That same day, Kennedy issued the writ of execution directing the U.S. Marshal to seize IPI's money not exceeding \$6.9 million from First Hawaiian Bank, City Trust Bank, Bank of Saipan, and Bank of Guam.

Last April 27, Manglona entered a judgment in favor of Pacific Rim in the amount of \$5.65 million against IPI for breach of promissory note. She later amended the judgment to incorporate pre-judgment interest and attorneys' fees. The amended judgment set the amount at \$6.9 million, plus post-judgment interest. IPI has appealed to the

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Pacific Rim is suing IPI

and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for reportedly not paying for the construction

work it did on IPI's casino site in Garapan. IPI brought has countersued.

BOE, Education chief summoned to talk about furloughs, expenses

By IVA MAURIN
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REPORTER

House Education Committee chair Rep. Roman Benavente (R-Saipan) has summoned Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada and the Board of Education to the Legislature to discuss matters related to furloughs and the expenditure of funds.

This comes soon after 25 more PSS employees were furloughed yesterday, on top of over 700 locally-funded PSS employees who were furloughed last April.

At the House of Representatives session last Thursday, lawmakers asked Benavente to call in the education officials to explain some matters, like PSS' decision to exempt principals and vice principals from the next batch of furloughs. Some BOE members have questioned this decision, saying this will just result in higher expenses for PSS.

Rep. Joseph Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), who asked Benavente to bring in the education officials, pointed

out that teachers and key staffers are confused, adding that teachers, principals and vice principals, and other school staffers call his office, asking about their salaries.

"The teachers and the principal and vice principal do the hard work. Not the commissioner, not the associate commissioner, not any of them in that office," he said.

He also appealed to Benavente to request pertinent documents and how many in the PSS were cut, who were cut or furloughed, and who were never cut in terms of salary.

House vice speaker Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) also asked that Ada provide them with a status of the Hopwood Middle School grant with the Federal Emergency Management Agency as well as a report on locally-appropriated funds.

Deleon Guerrero demands an explanation on how the funds, which came from the local appropriation of each precinct, got used, noting that the intent of those funds is to

help and assist in the immediate repairs of the schools to ensure that schools can be used by students when classes open.

In response, Benavente informed the legislators that he has contacted Ada and had asked for him to appear before the House. He added that the commissioner has updated him on Hopwood, that some renovations are taking place. "As far as moving ahead, they are moving ahead just to assure that, hopefully by September, when everything is clear, that kids will be accommodated for the opening of the school."

Benavente said he hopes and prays that schools will be opened, given that children have to go to school. "I can understand the upper grades like junior high school and senior high school...can manage to get through school online. But kindergarten students up to the middle school will really struggle a lot as far as their studies is concerned and their learning process is concerned. That's basically my main concern with it."



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Community Vulnerability Level Blue: What that means

In line with approved guidance by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and community-based testing data by the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced Monday that the CNMI can now responsibly initiate the next phase in the implementation of its Economic Recovery Plan from Community Vulnerability Level "Yellow" to "Blue."

This signifies significant progress in community-based testing. "Blue" represents the fourth point of phasing before "Green" and ensures that precautions continue to be made to ensure thresholds of positive cases are regularly monitored.

Under the recent amendment to the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directives, Community Vulnerability Level "Blue" means:

■ Gatherings of no more than 25 people in a single room or single space are permitted throughout the Commonwealth.

■ All businesses that have facilities open to the general public are now open from 5am to 11pm.

Posting of "one-way" flow signs for entrance and "one-way" flow signs for exit; maintaining crowd control; availability of hand sanitizer station on entry and on exit; provide methods to ensure protective barriers between worker and customer (Ex: face shield, plexiglass barrier at customer counters); and ensuring there are visible customer lineup markers that are six feet apart leading to the cashier counter.

Businesses must regularly and frequently clean all surfaces; sanitize main entrance door handles; sanitize handles of shopping baskets and shopping carts after each use; sanitize handles for chill boxes, cooler, and freezers.

Businesses (that are not restaurants or bars) shall also limit occupancy to 75% in accordance with supplemental regulatory guidance set by the CHCC's Bureau of Environmental Health and the Department of Public Works Building Code.

All businesses engaged in recreational or amusement type activities and gaming, including the casino, video poker establishments and e-gaming facilities, remain closed to the public.

■ All businesses that offer food or beverages for on-premises consumption, including bars and restaurants, must serve dine-in customers under social distancing parameters and at 50% of their originally permitted occupancy limit, in accordance with supplemental regulatory guidance from the CHCC-BEH.

In addition to social distancing, restaurants and bars must do temperature screening of all patrons entering their premises.

Food establishments are highly encouraged to use outdoor dining space wherever possible, in accordance with established supplemental regulatory guidance from the CHCC-BEH and social distancing guidelines.

■ Bars are permitted to re-open with temperature screen-

ing before entry.

Outdoor spaces are highly encouraged whenever possible.

■ Curfew hours are now 12am to 4am.

Exceptions to curfew hours remain:

• First responders while in performance of their official duties

• Any person lawfully employed during the Curfew Hours or is in direct route of going to or returning from their place of employment

• Any person going to or returning from admission to the hospital or completion of treatment such as hemodialysis.

■ Church and worship ser-

vices can now limit attendance to 50% of allowed occupancy and maintain social distancing and sanitation guidelines.

■ Gyms remain open. Non-contact recreational activities (such as gym workouts and group exercises) are permitted under strict social distancing and sanitation guidelines.

■ Mañagaha Island continues to be open to the public so long as social distancing requirements are implemented for both transport vessels and on-island activities. Transport vessels must be subject to constant and consistent disinfection.

■ All public beaches and

pathways are open only for purposes of exercise and wellness, both physical and mental, and shoreline subsistence fishing such as talāya, rod and reel, and commercial fishing activities, subject to the social distancing requirements stated in these COVID-19 Emergency Directives.

Provided further that exercise, wellness, and shoreline subsistence and commercial fishing activities are only allowed from 4am to 12am daily.

■ All public parks, including the Grotto, remain closed to the public.

■ Hotels, tour operators and

tourism industry stakeholders must finalize preparations for thermal monitoring and establish internal Standard Operating Procedures for mitigating risk in preparation for tourist arrivals alongside public health officials.

■ Preparations among tourism operators may continue in anticipation of the resumption of flights and guidance should be sought to Federal Officials on the steps necessary to resume international flights

For more information, refer to the CNMI Economic Recovery Plan or the latest amendments to the CNMI COVID-19 Emergency Directives of 2020 at www.governor.gov.mp. (PR)

USCG responds to disabled watercraft off Guam waters

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard rescued two Jetski operators when one fell overboard, and the craft was disabled off Agat last Saturday.

A crew from a Station Apra Harbor 45-foot response boat, *Medium*, rescued the man from the water and towed the Jetski back to Agat Marina. There were no injuries reported.

"Our RB-M crew was conducting training in the area when we received the digital distress message," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Luke Galat, a Joint Rescue Sub-Center Guam watchstander. "The crew was able to respond quickly and once on scene, retrieve the overboard person. It is for just such situations we train."

At 2:44pm, JRSC Guam watchstanders received a VHF-FM digital selective calling distress message from a position two miles south of Agat. The watchstanders immediately made call-outs to the sender with no reply. At the same time, a nearby Navy vessel reported they, too, received the call and were responding.

JRSC Guam watchstanders issued an Urgent Marine Information Broadcast notice to mariners and diverted the RB-M crew. Upon arriving at the location, responders quickly found the Jetski with one person aboard, and the second person in the water nearby. They recovered him from the water and put the watercraft in tow.

Once aboard, the man reported he had fallen overboard when accidentally dropping the watercraft's keys and confirmed he sent the distress call.

The weather on scene was winds of 11 mph and seas up to 4 feet. Watercraft are equipped with lanyards and kill switches to ensure the craft does not continue to operate without the rider should they become disconnected from the craft. The use of such safeguards is highly encouraged to prevent injury and abandonment.

The ocean can be unpredictable in the best conditions. For this reason the Coast Guard recommends waterway users always wear lifejackets when on their watercraft. (USCG)

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ROTA

From Page 1

According to a source, the male individual was allowed by DPS and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. on Rota to enter Rota's borders and to self-quarantine at home, with a police car parked outside to ensure that

he doesn't leave his house. The individual was in quarantine at his home for 14 days before being brought to PIC for another bout of quarantine. He will reportedly have to pay for his way back to Rota after his quarantine period is over.

According to Warren Villagomez, chairman of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, they ensured that

ISOLATION

From Page 1

end of this month, Patrick Guerrero, the governor's authorized representative, said that they have requested that the contract be shortened to only until the end of this week. This will help PIC start preparing for accepting and receiving tourists, in time for the projected reopening of the CNMI on July 15.

PIC, which holds 308 rooms, is being used as a quarantine facility for all arriving passengers in the CNMI.

This also means that the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force will be making some changes to the quarantine protocols for all incoming passengers, Guerrero said, although nothing yet has been finalized.

On the other hand, Kanoa Resort's contract, which will be expiring next Monday, June 22, will be extended for another 30 days. "We look forward to an extension of Kanoa's contract or a new contract to continue occupying that space that we had just

built," said Guerrero.

Kanoa Resort, which is being used as an isolation site for positive COVID-19 cases, is also being retrofitted into an Alternative Care Site, a sort of temporary hospital to exclusively handle COVID-19 cases.

Guerrero clarified, though, that the revised contract with Kanoa Resort may have to be modified since they do not need the entire hotel property and they have not utilized as many rooms as they thought they would. He said most cases that don't need hospitalization have been staying at the isolation site.

"Contact tracing, to my understanding, has not resulted in a lot of others having to check in at Kanoa for isolation," said Guerrero. Moreover, with the increased testing capability that the Commonwealth Health Center has, they were able to test close contacts of those individuals and then release them.

Guerrero stated that some individuals have gone back for a second testing but have not been kept in isolation, simply especially if they aren't

the first responders who went to Rota to bring the man to PIC for quarantine would not be exposed to any unnecessary risks.

"There was no other choice but to safeguard and minimize the risk of any exposure on Rota of travelers coming from Guam," said Villagomez. "That decision was made to [have him] be transported

showing any symptoms.

"This extension moving forward is going to be quite different from how we had a contract with them for the last 90 days," said Guerrero. The last contract that was for 90 days was meant for the whole facility as a quarantine or isolation facility.

Discussions about renovating additional floors above the bottom floor for mid-level non-intensive care unit and how much of the facility the CNMI needs for confirmed cases and close contacts/"person under investigation" space that are needed are still ongoing and will have more details on that next week.

As for the expenses, it will be different from the first run around. "As always, in the best interest of the government and the taxpayers, my goal is to try to negotiate something that's more reasonable for just the area that we're going to be using," said Guerrero.

According to him, more details about the contract for Kanoa will be available next week with the new contract in place.

PUBLIC

From Page 1

for 30 days, until July 5, to hear from the public, before making a final decision.

The Navy proposes to continue its military readiness training and testing activities throughout its "Study Area," at-sea and on Farallon de Medinilla, and on-land, in Guam and the CNMI. In their study, the Navy presented action and no-action alternatives, in relation to stressors in their operations that could potentially impact different resources, including water and air quality, marine habitat, birds, and mammals, fish, sea turtles, and land species and habitats.

The Navy also considered stressors on the islands' cultural resources, socioeconomic resources and environmental justice, as well as public health and safety. Under the no-action alternative, proposed training and testing activities would basically not occur in the study area.

When asked about this, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said he has never agreed to the Mariana Islands Training and Testing proposal, even when he was still a senator, and is urging people to review the proposal and send comments to the military.

"I've never agreed to the regional proposal, and I continue to echo that concern because I've always been a steward of protecting our environment, and making sure that we know what we have, and to embrace that, [on] Tinian, Pagan, or the whole Northern Islands, even Saipan," he said.

The governor added that the military is aware about the CNMI's concern and aggressiveness in protecting

not just the environment but also its culture. "Culture is something that is embedded in us. It's something that we don't just fight for, it's something that we practice."

Impact to the CNMI

In their study, the Navy laid out the effects their proposed actions would have on the environment, in particular, in terms of physical resources (air and water quality, sediments), biological (marine and terrestrial habitat, fish, among others), and human resources (culture, socioeconomic, public health).

As an example, for terrestrial species and habitat, the Navy states that there will be a small increase in the number of explosions on FDM. "The types of explosive munitions used on FDM include explosive bombs, missiles, rockets, explosive grenades and mortars, medium-caliber projectiles, and large-caliber projectiles," the study stated.

Under the no-action alternative, the proposed training and testing activities would not occur in the study area. However, the study noted that for FDM, the lease agreement between the U.S. government and the CNMI would remain in place, and the island would continue to be maintained as a Navy range.

For fish, the study states that the use of explosives could result in impacts on fishes within the study area, adding that "sound and energy from explosions are capable of causing mortality, injury, hearing loss, masking, physiological stress, or behavioral responses."

And then for marine birds, explosions in the water or near the water's surface, according to the study, "present a risk to marine birds located near

the explosion because the resulting shock waves can cause injury or result in the death of an animal."

For humans, the proposed actions may result in impacts on commercial and recreational fishing, traditional fishing practices, or tourism when areas of co-use are temporarily inaccessible during training and testing activities to ensure public safety.

And while the Navy has standard operating procedures to ensure no overlap between military and non-military activities, the report states that this may still potentially happen.

A full report is available for everyone to review at <https://mitt-eis.com/>

Not enough public involvement

Torres, as reflected in the public comments included in the study, said that the two weeks the Navy provided for comments "is an incredibly short time for stakeholders to review and develop substantive comments when considering the length of the SEIS document and its supporting materials."

"We do not believe the U.S. Navy satisfied its responsibility to provide opportunities for effective community participation in the NEPA process. ... It seems more could be done to ensure meaningful participation within the NEPA process for this and future Department of Defense actions," he said.

The Navy held four open house public meetings, on Tinian on March 14; Rota on March 15; Saipan on March 18; and Guam on March 19, all last year.

to Saipan for quarantine as well as monitoring."

Additionally, Villagomez said that any travel through Star Marianas Airlines or any charter coming from Guam and going to Rota is not permitted at this time.

"That's the purpose of the transfer yesterday and it was a Boating Safety transfer and it was successful," said Villagomez.

He stated that this wasn't an exception. Additionally, DPS was successful in bringing in the individual since the waters weren't so rough when they got him.

"It was a judgment call determination. ... What we want to do is mini-

OPEN

From Page 1

Department of Finance.

"We do have [the Office of Public Auditor], we do have the [Attorney General's] Office, and we've been working with what we need to do, and we'll continue to do that," said Torres

In return, the governor urged the minority bloc of the House of Representatives to "also allocate their energy and resources to bring us back, both economically and socially," given that the CNMI is currently experiencing a pandemic.

The House minority scanned and sorted records of the governor's expenditures, received through an OGA request they filed last December, and has made them all available for the public to review online.

The minority bloc submitted the OGA request to the Department of Finance on Dec. 10, 2019, seeking records of expenditures by the governor related to first-class travel, official representation, reimbursements, executive security services, and housing/utilities allowances.

At the House session last week, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan) informed lawmakers of their move to make the records accessible to the public, and requested that the files be made available to any member of the Legislature or the public to inspect.

"We believe that these records should be available to all members of the Legislature, and the people we serve, for review and analysis," Sablan said.

She also pointed out that Finance Secretary David Atalig has not fully complied with the OGA, noting "with concern" that there are records that they have yet to receive more than six months after they filed their initial OGA request.

"We are aware of certain records in Finance's possession that have not been released, and certain records that have been redacted, without citation to any specific exemption in the OGA," Sablan said. "Though much of our work has been disrupted by austerity measures and the COVID-19 government shutdown, the minority has nonetheless followed up with Secretary Atalig on the records we have yet to receive."

The minority urged House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) to direct the records they have received to the appropriate House standing committees, to start off a formal legislative investigation on the governor's

mize the risk of COVID-19," said Villagomez.

The individual is now being monitored, processed, and is going through all the protocols that any travelers who enter the CNMI go through.

COVID-19 in Guam

According to the Joint Information Center in Guam, the COVID-19 test results are reported from multiple labs at different times of the day. Cumulative test results will be provided once all tests are finalized.

To date, Guam has 185 confirmed cases, with five deaths, 169 released from isolation, and 11 active cases.

expenditures of public funds.

Separate branch

At the House session Monday, minority leader Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) reiterated that the Legislature is a separate branch of government.

Responding to a critical comment by press secretary Kevin Bautista, Propst said they are not accusing nor attacking the governor, but are simply making available the governor's expense report for the entire House to look into.

"To say that we're being political, when we've asked, time and time again, to look at certain documents, it's a slap in our face. This is not minority against the majority. We are a separate branch. ... This is a time when we all need to do our jobs because we're asked that," he said. "An attack on the minority is also an attack on the leadership in the sense that we are a separate branch of government. We don't bow, we don't kowtow to the administration."

The minority leader also said that they have introduced revenue-generating bills, adding that Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), and a few others, signed off on legislation to tax the casino.

"We are not neglecting our constituents, nor are we accusing or attacking the governor. In fact, we are willing to sit down with him and talk to him about some of the questions we have, anytime, anyplace," he added.

Minority report

House Speaker Blas Jonathan Attao (R-Saipan) has referred the records of the governor's expenses to the Ways & Means and the Judiciary & Governmental Operations committees for review.

Follow-ups on the documents that the Department of Finance have yet to release are also in the works.

"For the record, we're all members of the Legislature. We never say anything about majority or minority," Attao added.

The minority will be submitting a report of their analysis and recommendations to the House within the coming weeks.

"The people of the Marianas deserve to know whether and how there have been abuses of public funds or violations of public policies or laws by the governor or by any government official. And we in the Legislature have an obligation to provide the accountability and checks and balances that our people demand," Sablan said.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

Document copying assistance for PUA/FPUC applicants

By IVA MAURIN

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REPORTER

The Office of Rep. Luis John Castro (R-Saipan) is offering document copying assistance for Precinct 1 constituents applying for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance and the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance. This assistance is available to Castro's constituents every Tuesday and Wednesday, 9am to 2pm, beginning today until Dec. 26.

The project is the first for Castro's office, after being back online following the COVID-19 pandemic.

"This is the first project that we decided to do, to help our constituents who are applying for PUA funding, to at least to help them get their documents ready in time. There may be those who might have financial difficulties, that even a Xerox copy for just a few sets, might be a little too much," he said.

Castro is reaching out to all who have been furloughed or terminated to go to his office to be assisted. Services offered include printing, copying, and scanning of documents needed to apply for PUA, such as government-issued ID, Social Security card, tax forms,

proof of earnings, among others.

He advises his constituents to prepare the documents beforehand. "If you have all of that put together, it streamlines the process a



Castro

little bit," he said. "What our office wanted to do is go to these individuals, if they want to get their documents copied and ready for eventually when the process is opened

by the Department of Labor. They can use the resources of our office to get their documents situated."

Due to social distancing directives, as well as to ensure confidentiality of the documents, all who want to avail of the services have to schedule

an appointment. A staffer in Castro's office will be there to assist and provide the services on the date of the appointment.

"Our office is pretty small. We want to practice social distancing too so it's on an appointment basis. Also, some of these documents are sen-

sitive so we want to make it where they're in strict confidence," he added.

To make an appointment, contact 664-8903 (between 8am to 3pm), 670-285-9117, 670-287-6032, 285-0728, or email staff.rep.castro@cnmileg.gov. mp or repljcastro@gmail.com.



AWARD-WINNERS

Megumi Takaku of Blue Palms Dive Service Rota won first place Readers' Choice Favorite Dive Guide Overseas at the Dive and Travel Awards announced in Tokyo, Japan, in April 2020. Also, Teteto Beach on the island of Rota won first place Readers' Choice Best Beach Overseas for the third year in a row.



Miyuki Ishihara of Super Fish Diving Rota in the Marianas won third place Readers' Choice Favorite Dive Guide Overseas at the Dive and Travel Awards announced in Tokyo, Japan, in April 2020.

MVA

Blue Palms Dive Service Rota in the Marianas won second place Readers' Choice Best Beach, Overseas, at the Dive and Travel Awards announced in Japan in April 2020. From left, Ko Yukutake, Megumi Takaku, Shuhei Yamamoto, Mark Michael, Trac Huynh, and David Cuevas.

MVA



MVA



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BID CUC-IFB-20-022

S-5 AND S-9 SEWER LIFT STATION RENOVATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the S-5 and S-9 Sewer Lift Station Renovation project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the renovation of the existing S-5 and S-9 sewer lift stations, including the renovation of the existing generator building and wet well with all new piping, fittings, pumps, generator, and other equipment and appurtenance. The project also includes the installation of a new S-5 forcemain and inlet structure, the relocation of the existing Hyatt Hotel sewer forcemain to an existing sewer manhole on Coral Tree Avenue, the installation of a new S-9 upstream sewer manhole and gravity main crossing route 308. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 300 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **June 18, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-022, S-5 and S-9 Sewer Lift Station Renovation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) July 2, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 22, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org, with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater, Engineer - nicole.villagomez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC P&S, Administrative Support Assistant - marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive DirectorMANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-20-023

CHINA TOWN WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of China Town Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; relocation of water meters from private property to right-of-way, installation of gate valve assembly, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly, flush hydrants; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **June 25, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-20-023, China Town Water Line Replacement Project"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 16, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A **Bid Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 30, 2020** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Kirzite Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email kirzite.reyes@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Technician Senior via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive DirectorMANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

UFO holds motorcade to celebrate PH Independence Day

By CHEVY ALIPIO
alipiochevykate@gmail.com
REPORTER

The United Filipino Organization commemorated the 122nd Philippine Independence Day last Saturday with a motorcade starting at the Minatchom At-dao Pavilion and ending at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Around 45 vehicles participated, with 15 big bikes from the Matua and Young Guns Riders joining them.

This year's theme was "Kalayaan 2020: Tungo Sa Bansang Malaya, Nagbabayanihan, at Ligtas" (Freedom 2020: Toward a Free, United, and Safe Nation).

According to UFO president Marcelo Masilugan, the organization has always spearheaded a grand celebration of Philippine Independence Day to gather everyone in an event where food, entertainment, and games are offered, but all

that changed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The motorcade rode through Koblerville, As Gonno, Dandan, San Vicente, Kagman 1, 2, 3, Capital Hill, the former Mariana Resort & Spa, and at the Garapan Fishing Base.

"I am particularly proud of all our *kababayans* (compatriots), wherever they may be, who are in sync with the global effort to fight this invisible enemy by providing health care, security, and other professional services in the midst of this very unique situation. We Filipinos shall stand and we have always stood resilient against adversities at home and on the global stage," said Masilugan.

Additionally, he thanked their partners, Matua and Young Guns Rider, the Office of the Philippines Honorary Consul, the Filipino community, friends, and especially the Department of Public Safety, for providing



Philippine Honorary Consul to the CNMI Glicerio Eli DM. Arago, second right, and his team of key volunteers: from left, Ariel Mariano, Annamae Adaza, Mario Mayuga, and Ulysses Torres-Sabuco (not in photo) participated in the virtual 122nd Philippine Independence Day Celebration for all Filipinos in the United States and Caribbean last Saturday morning.

PHILHONCON/UTS

them traffic clearances and escort at every intersection.

Virtual commemoration

Glicerio Eli Arago, the Philippines' honorary consul to the CNMI, joined all the Philippine diplomatic and consular missions in the United States

and Caribbean in a first-ever virtual commemoration celebration of the Philippine Independence Day.

Arago participated in a virtual flag-raising last Saturday with all embassies and consular missions throughout the United States.

According to Arago, he was joined by the Philippine Honorary Consular Office's key volunteers: Annamae Adaza, Ariel Mariano, Mario Mayuga, and Ulysses Torres-Sabuco.

"The virtual celebration also highlighted a video tribute to all Filipino front-liners

in the Philippines, the United States, and Caribbean region who have been working tirelessly during the COVID-19 pandemic," Arago added.

Keynote remarks were made by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Teodoro Locsin Jr., and Philippine Ambassador to the United States Jose Manuel Romualdez.

"During this unprecedented time of crisis, the virtual celebration gave further emphasis on the importance of all of us coming together. We honor the heroes of the past, whose gallantry and heroism laid the foundation for the freedom we enjoy today, and the heroes of the present day—the health care professionals, to include our health care workers in the CNMI," said Arago.

The Philippines declared independence from Spain on June 12, 1898.

Things to know about antimicrobial pesticides

Antimicrobial pesticides are essential to controlling and preventing the spread of the coronavirus. The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Pesticides Branch, along with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources and Division of Customs, monitors and regulates the use and import of pesticides in the CNMI. Antimicrobials and pesticides that are not registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are illegal to import, sell, and use in the CNMI.

There are three types of "public health" antimicrobial pesticides:

1. Sterilizers: used to de-

stroy or eliminate all forms of microbial life; strongest type used in medical and research settings.

2. Disinfectants: used on hard, non-porous surfaces and objects to destroy or inactivate the growth of bacteria and fungi; some target specific viruses; used in medical and residential settings.

3. Sanitizers: used to reduce micro-organisms from inanimate surfaces to levels considered safe as determined by public health regulations; weakest type; some can be used for locations where food products are stored.

Although products like these are commonly used,

many of them can cause severe injury. If product label "Directions for Use" are not followed, this may result in failure to effectively disinfect and kill disease-causing microorganisms. Protect yourself from health hazards that can result from improper use or over-exposure to antimicrobial pesticides are:

- Eye irritation and damage to vision

- Skin irritation or rash

- Respiratory problems and other internal problems

To ensure that these products are used safely and effectively, anyone who uses antimicrobial pesticides is

required by law to follow all the safety precautions and directions for use on the product label. To ensure the public safety anyone who applies pesticides for a commercial purpose must be certified by BECQ Division of Environmental Quality. For more information on pesticides in the CNMI visit the BECQ Pesticides webpage at <http://deq.gov.mp/sec.asp?secID=34>

The use of pesticide products that are not registered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency may be harmful to human health or have ineffective disinfection properties.

For more information on

antimicrobial pesticides visit EPA's webpage at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticides/antimicrobial-pesticides>. U.S. EPA had provided an online list of actively registered disinfectant products that are effective for eliminating the coronavirus. Find it at <https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-registration/list-n-disinfectants-use-against-sars-cov-2>.

Pursuant to law, the DEQ director may issue a "Notice Stop Sale, Use or Removal" order to any person who owns, controls, or has custody of a misbranded pesticide. Immediately after receipt of such order no person shall sell, use, or remove the pesticide described in the order except in accordance with the provi-

sions of the order.

BECQ Division of Environmental Quality has issued a Notice of Stop Sale for the following pesticides that are not registered by USEPA and otherwise classified as misbranded pesticides:

- Zonrox Color Safe Bleach

- Lins Power Bleach

- Mr. Muscle Kitchen Cleaner

- Domix Thick

- V-Cider Disinfectant Spray

- Other misbranded pesticides.

Should misbranded items be found or for more information, call or leave a message with the BECQ Pesticides Branch at 664-8500/8512. (PR)



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Official Marianas Guide badge renewal deadline extension

In consideration of the effects of COVID-19, the Marianas Visitors Authority is extending the deadline for the renewal of Official Marianas Guide badges. Extensions will be for six months from March 2020, and will be honored until Aug. 31, 2020, to renew without penalty. In addition, the \$20 renewal fee will be waived. Required documents are updated police and traffic clearances, evidence of eligibility to work in the CNMI, and employment verification. For more information, contact MVA Tour Guide Certification program manager Kuen-Hee Han at khan@mymarianas.com or at 664-3200/1. (PR)

Free federal contracting webinars

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars every Tuesday and Thurs-

day in June. Webinars run from 10am to 11am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ June 18: Service Contract Act – The Service Contract Act requires contractors and subcontractors performing services on prime contracts in excess of \$2,500 to pay service employees prevailing wages. We will discuss the details of the SCA and how contractors can stay in compliance.

■ June 23: Buy American Act – The Buy American Act can be frustrating for government contractors. The Guam PTAC will discuss the BAA and offer some guidance on how to stay in compliance.

■ June 25: Essential Government websites –Much of government contracting is done online. The Guam PTAC will discuss the various, essential websites vendors need

to be familiar with to have a better chance for success in government contracting.

Register for the webinar at <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

New hours at CNMI Census Call Center

The 2020 CNMI Census office changed its hours of operation for the Call Center effective yesterday, June 14, 2020, from 11am to 7pm. If you have any questions or concerns, contact the CNMI Census office at 682-2020. (PR)

JKPL's Package-to-Go registration now closed

As of Saturday, June 13, 2020, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library has met its quota for the Summer Reading Program Package-to-Go. Registration is now closed. Community members, businesses and government agencies who would like to sponsor the program may contact the library at (670) 235-7316 or 7323 or 7322. (PR)

SHEFA deadlines

The deadline to apply for Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance is on or before July 1. The deadline for the supporting documents is on or before Sept. 30, 2020 along with your MOA if you are approved.

All supporting documents must be submitted at the same time via email to saipanshefa@gmail.com or mail (except for your official transcript which could be sent via e-script, Student National Clearing House, etc., directly from your institution to SHEFA via email or mail). We will not be accepting incomplete documents.

If you do not have access to either and need to visit our office, email or call 233-5995 to schedule an appointment. For more information or to download the application or MOA, visit www.saipanshefa.net. You can also find SHEFA updates on financial assistance, office hours, job vacancies, and other news

on our Facebook page @ Saipan SHEFA. (PR)

Navy trainings set

The U.S. Navy will conduct training at the Naval Magazine at the following dates and times: June 16, from 9:30am to 2pm; June 17, from 9am to 4pm; and June 18, from 9:30am to 2pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity due to the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in the vicinity of Agat Bay and Outer Apra Harbor until June 20, from 1pm to 11:55pm. The public is advised to be aware of the training and requested to remain clear of units in the area for the duration of this event.

The U.S. Navy will conduct training in Dandan-Malojloj and Radio Barrigada until June 20, from 1pm to 11:55pm. Residents in surrounding areas should not be alarmed if they see or hear increased activity due to the training.

The U.S. Navy will conduct live fire exercises in open ocean until June 20, from 1pm to 11:55pm at the following coordinates: 13° 26'N/145° 08'E, 13° 42'N/144° 36'E. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of the area for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

The U.S. Navy will also conduct live fire exercises in Warning Area 13 and Farallon de Medinilla until June 21, from 10am to 2am daily. Marine vessels are advised to remain clear of Farallon de Medinilla by 12 nautical miles for the duration of the event and to monitor the U.S. Coast Guard broadcast Notice to Mariners for advisories.

These trainings support readiness and are critical to developing the skills needed to respond to operational missions throughout the region to ensure a stable, free, and open Indo-Pacific. (PR)

Upward trend in fuel prices continues

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In less than a week since the last increase in fuel prices, fuel companies in the CNMI have raised their prices again by another 15 cents.

Last Friday, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. took the lead again in the fourth price hike, raising their per gallon of Extra and Supreme fuel. Shell Marianas followed suit last Saturday morning.

Gas prices went up from \$3.53 for a gallon of Extra fuel to \$3.68 per gallon, while the Supreme fuel went from \$3.98 per gallon to \$4.13. The lowest price of fuel in the CNMI before the government shut-down as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic was at \$3.83.

A 55-year-old motorist who

lives in Tanapag said she is no longer shocked. "Even before the pandemic, gas prices are always going up during this time of year. I'm not amazed anymore. I remember gas was almost \$5 before the pandemic, so it's still low for now," she said.

AG: Report price gouging

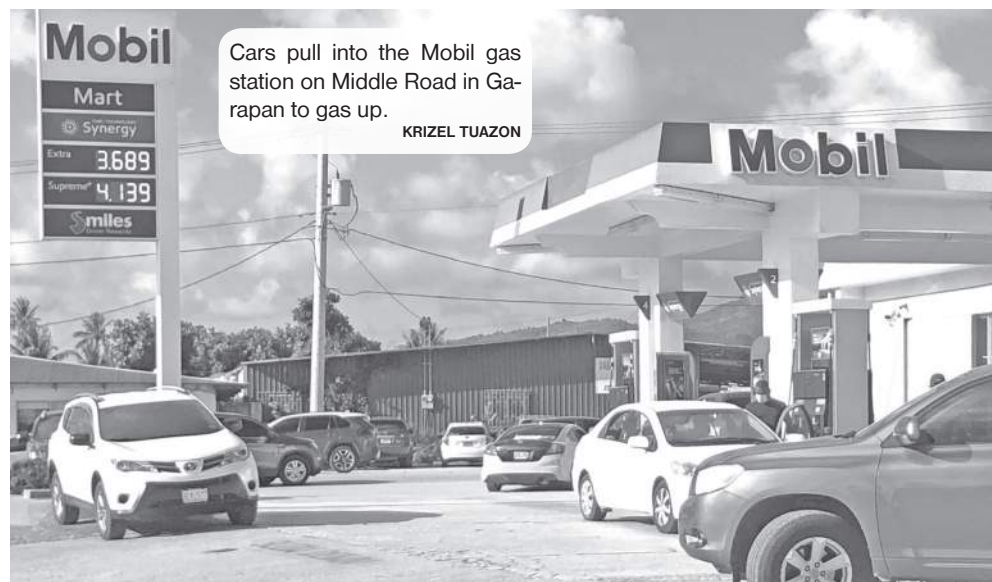
As for price increases in groceries, the Office of the Attorney General is calling on people to report price gouging through the OAG website, <http://cnmioag.org>.

In an interview, Attorney General Edward Manibusan revealed that their office, during this time of COVID-19, has been receiving multiple complaints on price gouging, particularly on stores raising prices of food and items, es-

pecially related to sanitation such as hand sanitizers and face masks.

"Our Investigative Division has been very busy with complaints regarding price gouging. We had a number of complaints either through our website, or through people just calling in to say that the stores have raised the prices of hand sanitizers and face masks, medicines and food," he said. "We were able to go out and investigate those. We've actually issued a number of cease and desist orders."

Manibusan advised people who are complaining to furnish documents that support the complaint. "There are people that actually file complaints in this office but just say who he or she was and what's the issue—basically a



general complaint. We can't do anything about that. If you have a complaint, it'd be nice to have some document that goes with it. It would help with the investigation. It will help with the speed of the investigation," he said.

The attorney general also shared that their website has a hotline, <http://www.cnmioag.org/hotline/>, where consumer complaints are also accepted, adding that people can just "fill out the application and submit it", where

they will get notified right away, and from there, start an investigation.

Consumers can also submit complaint via email to consumer_counsel@cnmioag.org, or via phone at 237-7627. **(With Iva Maurin)**

Shame on you!

By **IVA MAURIN**
iva_maurin@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres had this strong message to litterbugs, who keep disposing of trash just about anywhere on the island.

In his regular radio news briefing last Friday, he called on people to stop throwing their trash anywhere and to help keep the CNMI clean and pristine. According to him, there is absolutely no justification for anyone to be littering and throwing trash around under any circumstances.

The Bureau of Environmen-

tal and Coastal Quality said it has seen an increasing amount of trash and debris on remote beach sites and beaches on the east side of Saipan. BECQ urges the public to clean up before and after using a beach site. It also warned that, pursuant to the Litter Control Act, the following government

» Governor calls out littering and illegal dumping

agencies are mandated to enforce the Litter Control Law: BECQ, Department of Lands & Natural Resources, Department of Public Health, Department of Public Works, Commonwealth Zoning Office, Department of Public Lands, Department of Public Safety, Saipan Mayor's Office, and the Office of

the Mayor of each senatorial district and their respective departments.

Anyone who commits the offense of littering will be fined with a penalty fee of not less than \$25 and not more than \$5,000 based on the Litter Control Penalty Fee Matrix. Penalties will be assessed based on the weight, type, and location the act of littering took place.

Reminder that all public beaches and pathways are closed to all activities except for public use for purposes of exercise and wellness, both physical and mental, and shoreline subsistence fishing such as *taläya*, rod and reel, and commercial fishing activities, subject to the social distancing requirements.

Torres pointed out that people travel to the CNMI to see a clean environment and the CNMI itself spends thousands of dollars promoting the destination "and for us here to do this to the environment is really a shame. I've been frustrated about a lot of things but this is something that is just unacceptable."

The governor reminded the community the environment is what the CNMI has. "We have the beach, go there, enjoy it. Hang out, let your kids swim, but when you leave, please pick [trash] up. How would you want to bring your family to the same beach, let them swim, and then you go there and you see all the trash around?" Torres said. "We have beau-

tiful beaches here, beautiful islands. Let's protect it. Carry your own weight, in terms of the trash that you bring in. Leave it cleaner than when you found it."

Torres also said that everyone in the community, not just the government, has an obligation to protect the CNMI. "Let's not blame the government that others are throwing their trash. The landfill is open. We have quotas per households. We all have to do our end to protect our environment. Please stop littering," Torres said.

BECQ administrator Eli Cabrera supported Torres' message in a separate interview, saying, "I believe the governor is right in [saying] 'shame on you.'" He added that BECQ's Litter Control Section has been going out

every day, and also checks on any complaints they receive.

"When they call us or we see something, we send our team out to do the inspection. ... We have cited 12 people that disposed their trash not on a designated area, and we issued them citation. So far, we have collected almost \$4,000," Cabrera said.

Last Friday, BECQ was at Lau Lau Bay, cleaning up a sediment chamber and a nearby beach.

Help keep the island clean and report any littering and illegal dumping to BECQ at 664-8500. Violators will be fined with a penalty fee of \$25 to \$5,000, based on the weight, type, and location where the littering took place, and as guided by the Litter Control Penalty Fee matrix.



Volunteers help the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality clean up a sediment chamber near Lau Lau Bay. **IVA MAURIN**



The volunteers who helped in the cleanup. **IVA MAURIN**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-DCCA/CCDF-078

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 09, 2020 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TEN GENERATORS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****MUST USE A FACE MASK BEFORE ENTERING THE OFFICE****

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ ROBERT HUNTER
SECRETARY, DCCA

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB20-DLNR-077 (A-B) - CIF ROTA

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 09, 2020 TIME 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) USED CLASS "F" PICK-UP TRUCKS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

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/s/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLNR

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S

**NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION**
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

INVITATION FOR BID (IFB)
(This is ad is paid for NMHC with HUD funds)
NMHC IFB 2020-007

BID SUBMISSION DATE & TIME: July 13, 2020, 10:00 a.m.

**Purchase and Installation of Modular /
Prefabricated Units for Transitional Housing**

Project package will be available on June 12, 2020, at the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net.

The provisions of the NMHC Procurement regulations, NMIAC 100-60-725 AND 100-60-730 Prohibiting Gratuities, Kickbacks and Contingent Fees shall apply.

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference will be held via video teleconferencing on June 25, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. through Zoom Video Communications. Bidders will be provided the video teleconferencing link on the NMHC website at www.nmhcgov.net. Failure to attend the Mandatory pre-bid conference will be considered a non-responsive bidder.

For more information, contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager/Procurement Officer, at (670)234-6866/9447 or email at officemanager@nmhcgov.net during regular business hours, 7:30a.m. – 4:30p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

/s/ Vinney Atalig - Hocog
Chairman, NMHC Board of Directors

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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EDITORIAL

America's pandemic response is as racist as its policing

There are a gratifying number of private and public discussions underway this week in Los Angeles and elsewhere about how black, Latino and other communities of color have borne a disproportionate share of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, most notably deaths and financial hardships, and the role that systemic racism has played in such outcomes. It's a natural outgrowth of the protests over George Floyd's death in Minneapolis police custody and the nationwide reckoning they prompted over the endemic racism built into civic and cultural institutions.

And happily, these discussions are translating into some action locally to adjust the ongoing pandemic response. On Tuesday the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors agreed to ramp up coronavirus testing, tracing and outreach in hard-hit communities of color by enlisting community based organizations to help with the legwork. This is welcome and appropriate, albeit somewhat belated—the Advancement Project California, a nonprofit that promotes racial equity, proposed this model more than a month ago.

We'd like to see similar approaches in other cities and states. The data on COVID-19 cases and deaths suggest that our collective response to the pandemic has been as fundamentally, if unconsciously, racist as the policing tactics that led to the deaths of Floyd, Breonna Taylor and far too many other black Americans.

If only if hadn't taken four months of sickness and dying and a widespread civil unrest for this problem to get the attention and action it deserves. Because it was no surprise. Even in the early days of the first wave of COVID-19, there was evidence that black people were succumbing to the effects of infection at a much higher rate than white people.

Michigan authorities were reporting in early April that while 14% of the state's population is black, that community accounted for 41% of deaths. Similar disparities were being reported in Chicago and Louisiana. It's the same in Los Angeles, too, although the disparities included Latinos and other communities of color. New data show nonwhites in Los Angeles are more likely to have died of COVID-19 at twice the rate of white residents.

Communities of color historically have had worse health outcomes, from the beginning of their lives to the foreshortened ends. They have less access to health care. They are more likely than white people to develop conditions such as asthma, diabetes and heart disease that put them at higher risk for serious complications and death from COVID-19. They are more likely to live in crowded conditions where it's more difficult to socially distance. The list of contributing factors goes on and on.

Nor was it a secret that black people and Latinos would be more exposed to the coronavirus because they are much less likely to hold jobs that can be done from home. Yet they are also overrepresented in service jobs hard hit by

See AMERICA'S on Next Page



'Defund the police' is what you get when police don't police themselves

I don't think police officers should be plunked down in the looted office of a U.S. congressman on Chicago's South Side, making coffee and munching microwaved popcorn, while nearby businesses are being looted.

They shouldn't be hurling homophobic slurs, either. Or making obscene gestures. Or pulling a woman out of her car by her hair and holding her down with a knee to the neck.

And they surely shouldn't be killing black people, which is, of course, the very heart of the necessary national upheaval unfolding around us.

But with each of those obvious "that should never happen" scenarios, we run into a problem. Take the Chicago officers who occupied U.S. Rep. Bobby Rush's office and lazed about while their fellow officers were nearby facing down angry protesters outraged by the killing of George Floyd.

"One was asleep on my couch in my campaign office," Rush said Thursday, as images of the eight or more cops were revealed. "They even had the unmitigated gall to go and make coffee for themselves and to pop popcorn, my popcorn, in my microwave while looters were tearing apart businesses within their sight and within their reach."

It's shameful. And ridiculous. And the problem we have expressing outrage about entitled cops or violent cops or even murderous cops is an almost reflexive need to qualify that outrage with something like, "I know most police officers are good, dedicated people, but ..."

How about we lose that caveat and focus on the fact that there's a systemic problem with policing in America? It's OK to highlight the badness of some without acknowledging the obvious goodness in others. Doing so only distills the seriousness of the issue.

Let's take it out of human terms. Say we start seeing reports from different parts of the country that the brakes on some models of a popular SUV are failing. There are a few fatalities, some injuries and a slew of videos of the SUVs crashing.

People are smart enough to know not every one of those SUVs is faulty. They're not going to focus on the SUVs that aren't crashing. But they're sure going to want the company to do a recall and fix the problem. And if the company ignores it, if the company says, "Well, most of these SUVs are very fine machines," people will move on and buy a different brand.

Our tolerance of failures in policing shouldn't be different from our tolerance of failures in anything we count on to keep us safe.

And because we don't have a choice in who serves and protects us, because we can't ditch one local police force in favor of another, people are protesting. Loudly. Sometimes violently.

That's why you're seeing a slogan like "Defund the police"

By REX HUPPKE

Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a Chicago Tribune columnist. Readers may send him email at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.



bubble up.

People have seen too many videos of appalling behavior by law enforcement officers. People see images of police officers lying around a congressman's looted office, they feel angry and helpless, and they don't have the option to simply switch brands.

What people see is this: the police not effectively policing themselves.

WGN Radio's Bob Sirott recently asked John Catanzara, president of Chicago's Fraternal Order of Police, what he thinks about officers showing support for protesters by kneeling with them.

Catanzara said: "Any member of Lodge 7 who is going to take a knee and basically side with protesters while they're in uniform will subject themselves to discipline in the lodge up to and including expulsion from Lodge 7."

That's a pretty callous attitude. In that interview, Catanzara leaned hard on the "most cops are good cops" argument.

I don't think that's untrue, but it's a crutch. Nobody needs to pay homage to the good cops while speaking out against the bad ones.

The focus of the hundreds of thousands of Americans who have taken to the streets in the wake of Floyd's killing in Minneapolis is on bad cops. All the good cops in the world don't make up for what happened on that street. But what happened there does damage the public's opinion of all police, same as the videos of cops whacking protesters with batons, and the images of cops turning a looted congressman's office into a clubhouse.

It doesn't matter whether that's fair or not. What matters is that something is done to fix the problems.

That's where everyone's focus needs to be. I don't need to qualify my criticism of those Chicago officers in Rep. Rush's office by giving a nod to the ones who weren't there. We all need to stop offering up these knee-jerk pats on the head.

We're adults. Wrong is wrong. Wrong needs to be fixed.

And police officers here and across the country have a lot of wrong that needs fixing—right now.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed.

Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Promissory Notes: What you should know

It would be nice if we never needed anything from anyone. But no person is an island. We all need help from time to time. And sometimes that help comes in the form of a loan, whether to make rent, go to school, buy a house, or a start a business. If so, you'll frequently have to document that debt through an agreement called a promissory note.

Promissory notes come in several flavors. But each type shares common elements. For example, they normally begin with the date and the party names (the lender and borrower) before discussing the loan terms. The key terms include the interest rate, the amount to be repaid, when and how those payments will be made, and what happens if those payments are not made on time (or at all).

It's also typical to identify whether the note is backed by collateral. If yes, the note is called a Secured Promissory Note and, if not, it's known as an Unsecured Promissory Note.

Whether a loan is secured by collateral has a significant effect on the promissory note's interest rate. That's for an obvious reason: The interest rate compensates the lender for (among other things) taking the risk that they won't get paid back. So, unsecured loans have higher interest rates while secured loans have lower ones.

Now that we've looked at the skeleton of a promissory note, let's discuss the four situations where they are often used.

The first scenario is personal loans. Maybe you are borrowing money from family or lending money to a friend. Either way, if the loan amount is high enough, it's smart to put the loan in writing, especially if you are the lender and worry that the person will later say the money was a gift rather than a loan.

The second type is perhaps the most familiar: A home loan where a homeowner borrows money from a bank to buy their home. The home, in turn, serves as the collateral for the loan.

A third version is commercial loans. For example, a bank might loan money to a company to buy inventory or expand their business. This type of loan often involves significant sums be-

tween sophisticated parties, which typically translates into longer, more formal promissory notes or loan agreements.

The final variety is an investment loan where a company raises money from investors. These loans frequently give the investor two ways to get paid back. They can receive their money back plus interest or they can convert their loan into partial ownership of the company. For example, the note could be structured as a \$10,000 loan convertible to a 10% ownership stake if the loan isn't repaid in full within two years.

Now let's consider five common questions.

First, do I need to put the loan in writing? In most cases, yes. Not doing so invites a host of problems when memories change, people die, or companies file for bankruptcy. But, fortunately, promissory notes need not be complicated, especially for small loans. One or two pages is often enough for a straightforward loan.

Second, what's the maximum interest rate for a loan? It depends on who is lending the money and how much money is being loaned. Under CNMI law, most people follow one set of rules while banks and a few other licensed financial institutions have a different set of rules. For most of us, the amount of interest that can be charged depends on the loan amount. For small loans (\$300 or less), the maximum rate is 24% per year. For larger loans (more than \$300), the cap is 12% per year. Licensed lenders, by contrast, can charge higher rates.

Third, what happens if I pay late or not at all? It depends on what the promissory note says. But normally, the lender will charge a late fee and increase the interest rate until you've paid what you owe. If problems continue and the lender needs to hire an attorney or file a lawsuit, usually the borrower will have to pay for that too. And if the lender doesn't want to deal with the headaches of trying to collect the debt, they'll often hire or sell the debt to a debt-collection agency.

Fourth, what happens if the borrower dies before paying off

FINE PRINT

By **JORDAN SUNDELL**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jordan Sundell is a lawyer primarily practicing business, real estate, estate planning, and asset-protection law. He formerly worked for the CNMI Supreme Court and Bridge Capital and is now general counsel for several real-estate companies, including JZ Group. His columns—focused mainly on real estate, small business, and estate planning—are published every other Tuesday. Be sure to like the Fine Print on Facebook!

the loan? The debt survives and will become the responsibility of the borrower's estate (assuming that the estate had timely notice of the debt). In other words, when the borrower's estate goes through the probate process, the estate will have to pay the lender before the heirs as long as the estate knew or ought to have known about the debt within certain timelines.

Fifth, what happens if the borrower files for bankruptcy before paying off the loan? It depends on the type of bankruptcy and whether the loan was secured or not. But to oversimplify, in many cases a bankruptcy will reduce or even wipe out the loan. Unsecured loans, in particular, fare badly in bankruptcy.

Hopefully this primer on promissory notes helped. But if you have questions, please consult with an experienced attorney about your specific situation.

This column is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be taken as legal advice. For your specific case, consult a lawyer.

Mental health awareness and 'the new norm'

By **SHARLEEN SABLAN**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Social distancing is a thing. People wear face masks. Many carry gloves, hand sanitizers, and antibacterial spray or wipes. We wash our hands constantly. These are the new norms.

When the coronavirus pandemic first hit, the CNMI watched from afar. As it traveled to other countries, each community coped with it in different ways. There were mass lockdowns, protests, panic buying and chaos. When it made its way to the CNMI, people struggled to keep balance. People no longer gathered at the beach, children did not go to school, parents had to adapt to working from home and managing homeschooling. Many people lost jobs. Some lost loved ones.

As we navigated the ins and outs of living in a pandemic, we made adjustments to our lives. We tweaked our routines and removed or added practices. Now that the curve has been flattened,

we are starting to go back to "normal." But what is normal now and how can we mentally prepare ourselves for it? I found an article in The Highlight by Vox written by Elanor Cummins. She says:

"Few of us will be the same coming out of quarantine as we were going in: People with preexisting mental health conditions lost many of the routines that helped them cope, exacerbating their problems in the process. Many have experienced fresh hardship, like the loss of a job or the death of a loved one, which they likely weren't able to properly mourn. And everyone has been forced to dramatically alter how they live, work, and accomplish even the most mundane tasks, such as shopping for groceries."

Vox compiled these tips from five psychologists across different realms of the mental health community on coping with the new norm:

1. Accept that your anxieties are normal

■ **Roxane Cohen Silver**, professor of psychological science, medicine, and health at the University of California, Irvine

This is a very unusual and stressful and worrisome time. It's okay to be feeling anxious. And there are many, many, many people experiencing losses — and those are real, and those should not be minimized.

2. Learn to manage your emotional response to fear

■ **Christopher Pittenger**, director of the OCD Research Clinic at Yale University

If we can learn to label the emotion and recognize them as signals that may be useful sometimes but don't mean you're in danger, then we can try to break that cycle of the anxiety or the fear feeding on itself and learn to tolerate it better.

3. Practice mindfulness, and cut out unhealthy routines

■ **Rossi Hassad**, epidemiologist and psychology professor at Mercy College

Mindfulness, as simple as it sounds, runs very deep. We encourage people to be mindful of how they consume the news. We want them to engage in healthy routines and be mindful of the use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs, which can worsen your mental health and physical wellbeing in the long term. And if people need more support, we want them to know they can contact

their state and city health departments, the CDC, and other organizations to get information on accessing professional services.

4. Fight apprehension by keeping yourself distracted

■ **George Bonanno**, director of the Loss, Trauma, and Emotion Lab at Columbia University Teachers College

People should distract themselves. But the idea is whatever you do, if it helps you, as long as it doesn't become prolonged or harmful, that's great.

5. Get involved to help stave off feelings of powerlessness

■ **Susan Clayton**, environmental psychologist at the College of Wooster

People can try to make their community more sustainable, or it could be political action, or it could be finding another group of people to meet with and talk about these problems. Taking action can help overcome that feeling of powerlessness, and that's good for your mental health.

You can find the article online at: <https://www.vox.com/the-highlight/2020/5/13/21248281/coronavirus-mental-health-reopen-reopening-covid-anxiety-bars-restaurants-office>.

These tools are just five out of many activities you can do to help improve your mental health. If none of these tools help, please seek out professional help. If you feel like you are struggling with your mental health, visit mhascreening.org to check your symptoms. This is a free, confidential, and anonymous screening service. After receiving your results, you will be given information about your symptoms and resources to feel better. To get further evaluations, seek professional help by calling CHCC Family Care Clinic at (670) 234-8950.

If you feel that you or someone you know has been discriminated against because of a mental illness, contact the Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness program at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. at (670) 235-7273/4 or visit us on the web at www.nmpasi.org, www.facebook.com/NMPASI, and follow us on Instagram @nmpasi670.

Sharleen Sablan is a client advocate at the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc.

AMERICA'S

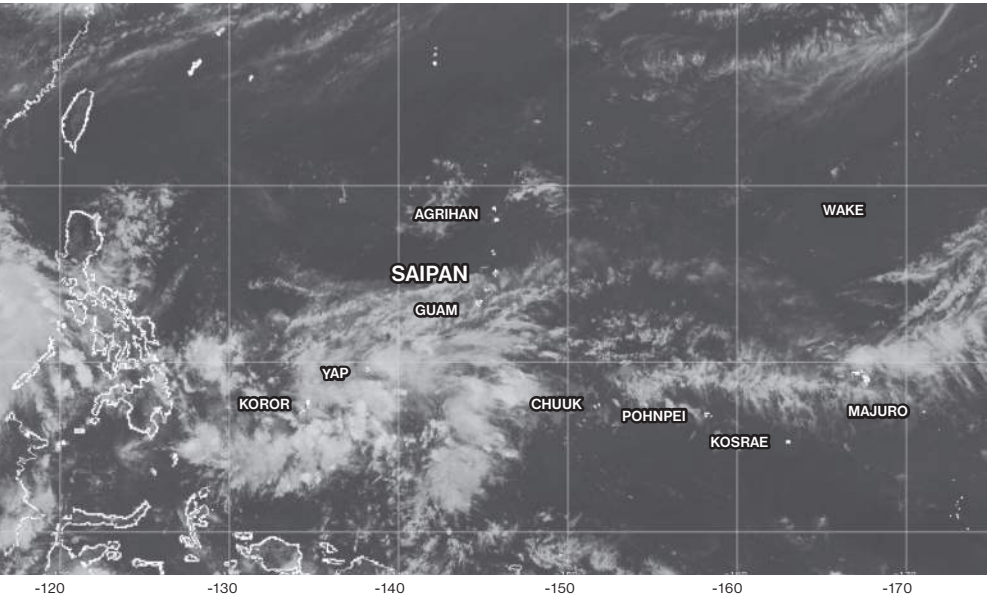
From Page 8

the restrictions imposed on businesses during the pandemic, so they've suffered disproportionately from the ensuing layoffs, furloughs and cutbacks.

How was this going to happen any other way, considering the disparities in health care, employment, accumulated wealth and education that put communities of color at an immediate disadvantage in every crisis? Obviously, the nation needs serious reform in health care along with criminal justice. But right now, we need immediate action to prevent black people, Latinos, Native Americans and other ethnic communities from suffering and dying at frightening rates. Because here's another thing we know: Coronavirus is still circulating all over the U.S., and people are still dying from COVID-19. And they will likely do so for the foreseeable future.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	78°	90°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°	90°	79°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:40 AM, MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows the northern extent of a trade-wind disturbance across the Marianas with mostly cloudy skies and patchy trade-wind showers. Observations indicate east winds around 10 to 15 knots. Ipan buoy is measuring seas just under 6 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklist-household-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

able, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

- ### Continue good hand hygiene

 - Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
 - Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

- ### Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

 - Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not avail-

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorm	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorm	84° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°	
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	84° / 80°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:48 PM
Wednesday	5:47 AM	6:48 PM
Thursday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	2:01 AM	2:32 PM	-
Wednesday	2:37 A	3:19 PM	-
Thursday	3:15 AM	4:09 PM	-
Friday	3:55 AM	5:00 PM	-
Saturday	4:40 AM	5:54 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 55°	
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	93° / 68°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 74°	
London	Showers	72° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 62°	
Manila	Thunderstorm	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 41°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	79° / 63°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 70°	
Paris	Showers	72° / 57°	
Busan	Cloudy	75° / 64°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	81° / 61°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	81° / 60°	
San Francisco	Windy	65° / 52°	
Seoul	Cloudy	84° / 64°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	82° / 68°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	79° / 63°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:50 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.94	
10:55 AM	LOW TIDE	0.65	
5:09 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.55	
10:13 PM	LOW TIDE	1.07	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	1, 4, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	1, 4, 6

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1208	14:00	14:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1301.2	8:30AM	9:00AM	Tues/Fri	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Tues/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1212	18:00	18:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3101.2	9:30AM	10:00AM	Tues/Fri				
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Tues/Fri				
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website: www.saipantribune.com.

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Business

Salty's Grill and Café *stays open* for business

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Salty's Grill and Café did not close its doors during the coronavirus pandemic. It has limited its operations but pressed on to continuously serve their unique and scrumptious Chamorro and Japanese dishes.

Manager Takakazu Tanzawa said they did not close because their business compass is bigger than earning profit. "The pandemic did not faze us because we continued to stay open to support the local community... For a long time we did take-out orders only, but as the community progressed in flattening the curve, we were also making changes," he said.

"Still subject to government regulations, we recently have opened our dine-in operations, but only for lunch time from 11am to 2pm and not in full restaurant capacity—18 people and limited to four people per table and not more than that. We do take-out until 3pm and as for dinner, we are still temporarily closed," he added.

For more information, call (670) 233-7258

Also known as a happy hour hub for locals and tourists, Tanzawa said that the bar is not yet in operation. "Our menu specials that our chef, Suzuki Takeshi, comes up with sustained us. Our famous curry dishes comes in beef, pork, shrimp, and chicken and there is nothing like it on island as my chef mixes the right amount of spices and ingredients."



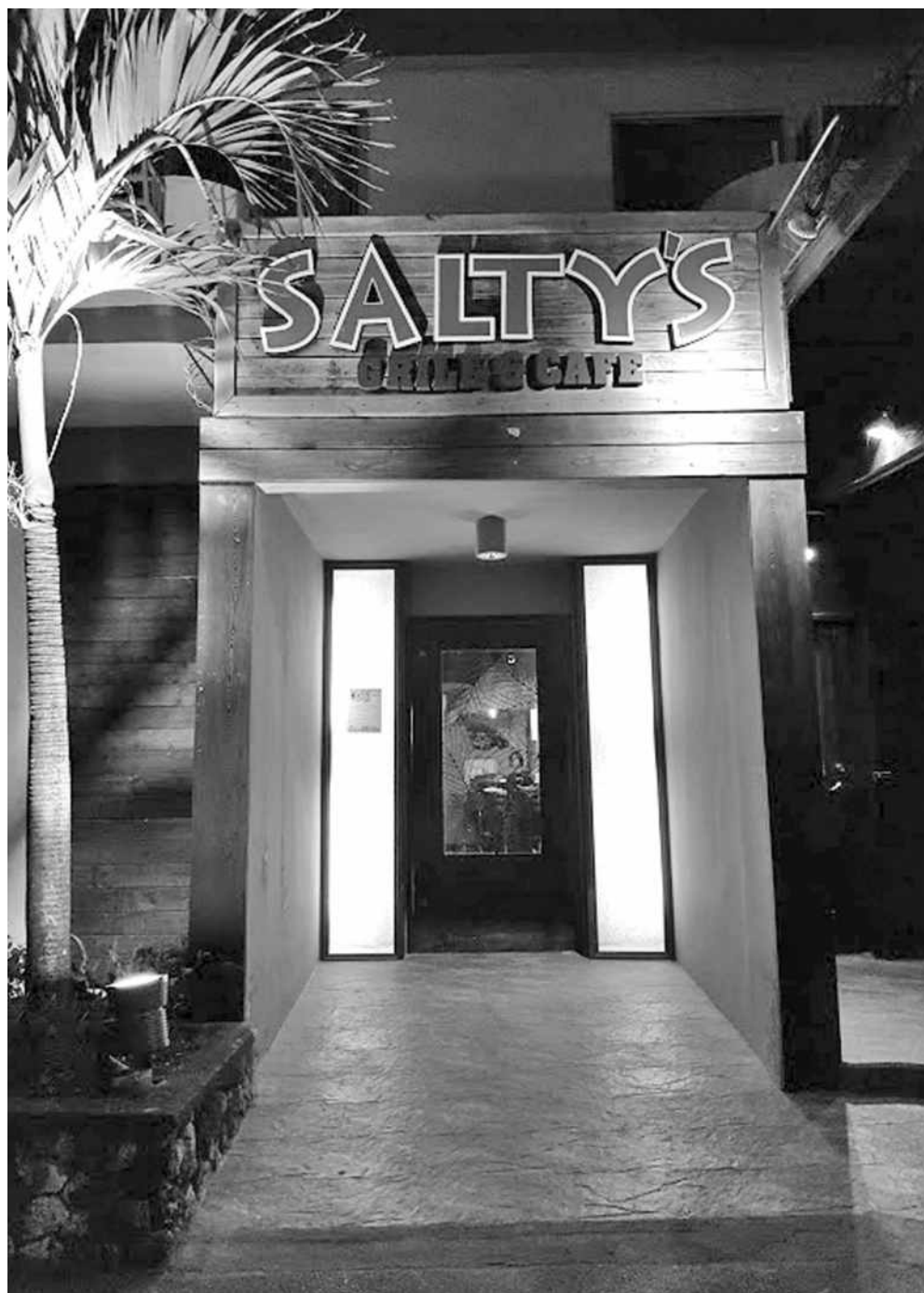
CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Salty's Grill and Café's pork cutlet curry comes with rice, soup, and salad.

"As for health and safety regulations, we adhere to them strictly to protect both our staff and customers who come in to dine. Facemasks are worn all the time by our staff and we sanitize all of our surfaces (tables, counters, chairs, etc.). We also encourage for staff and customers to remain 6 feet apart to support and maintain social distancing," Tanzawa added.

Salty's Grill and Café is located on Beach Road, beside McDonald's in Garapan and is one of the few wholly Japanese-owned restaurants and bars operating on Saipan.

Salty's Grill and Café is open from Monday to Saturday from 11am to 2pm for lunch dine-in and accepts take-out orders until 3pm. For more information, call (670) 233-7258 or visit their Facebook page.



Salty's Grill and Cafe is one of the few restaurant and bar businesses wholly owned by a Japanese company on Saipan.

Pandemic leads to a bicycle boom, and shortage, around world

PORTLAND, Maine (AP)—Fitness junkies locked out of gyms, commuters fearful of public transit, and families going stir crazy inside their homes during the coronavirus pandemic have created a boom in bicycle sales unseen in decades.

In the United States, bicycle aisles at mass merchandisers like Walmart and Target have been swept clean, and independent shops are doing a brisk business and are selling out of affordable "family" bikes.

Bicycle sales over the past two months saw their biggest spike in the U.S. since the oil crisis of the 1970s, said Jay Townley, who analyzes cycling industry trends at Human Powered Solutions.

"People quite frankly have panicked, and they're buying bikes like toilet paper," Townley said, referring to the rush to buy essentials like toilet paper and hand sanitizer that stores saw at the beginning of the pandemic.

The trend is mirrored around the globe, as cities better known for car-clogged

streets, like Manila and Rome, install bike lanes to accommodate surging interest in cycling while public transport remains curtailed. In London, municipal authorities plan to go further by banning cars from some central thoroughfares.

Bike shop owners in the Philippine capital say demand is stronger than at Christmas. Financial incentives are boosting sales in Italy, where the government's post-lockdown stimulus last month included a 500-euro (\$575) "bici bonus" rebate for up to 60% of the cost of a bike.

But that's if you can get your hands on one. The craze has led to shortages that will take some weeks, maybe months, to resolve, particularly in the U.S., which relies on China for about 90% of its bicycles, Townley said. Production there was largely shut down due to the coronavirus and is just resuming.

The bicycle rush kicked off in mid-March around the time countries were shutting their borders, businesses were clos-

ing, and stay-at-home orders were being imposed to slow the spread of the coronavirus that has infected millions of people and killed more than 450,000.

Sales of adult leisure bikes tripled in April while overall U.S. bike sales, including kids' and electric-assist bicycles, doubled from the year before, according to market research firm NPD Group, which tracks retail bike sales.

It's a far cry from what was anticipated in the U.S. The \$6 billion industry had projected lower sales based on lower volume in 2019 in which punitive tariffs on bicycles produced in China reached 25%.

There are multiple reasons for the pandemic bicycle boom.

Around the world, many workers were looking for an alternative to buses and subways. People unable to go to their gyms looked for another way to exercise. And shut-in families scrambled to find a way to keep kids active during stay-at-home orders.

AstraZeneca agrees to make COVID-19 vaccine for Europe

LONDON (AP)—Drugmaker AstraZeneca struck a deal Saturday to supply up to 400 million doses of an experimental COVID-19 vaccine to European Union countries, the latest in a series of agreements as scientists, governments and pharmaceutical companies race to combat the virus.

AstraZeneca plans to begin delivering the vaccine to European countries by the end of this year under the agreement with the Inclusive Vaccine Alliance, formed this month by France, Germany, Italy and the Netherlands. All other EU member states will have the chance to take part under the same terms as the original alliance members.

The cost of making the vaccine, which was developed by Oxford University, is expected to be offset by funding from the governments.

"This agreement will ensure that hundreds of millions of Europeans have access to Oxford University's vaccine following approval," AstraZeneca CEO Pascal So-

riot said in a prepared statement. "With our European supply chain due to begin production soon, we hope to make the vaccine available widely and rapidly."

The deal is the latest in a series of agreements to produce the vaccine—even though it is not certain it will work to prevent coronavirus infections. Because of the desperate need for a vaccine amid the pandemic that has killed more than 426,000 people worldwide, AstraZeneca is scaling up manufacturing with human trials still under way.

The Anglo-Swedish company recently completed similar agreements with Britain, the United States, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, a public-private-charitable partnership based in Norway, and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, another public-private partnership headquartered in Geneva, for 700 million doses. It plans to produce an additional 1 billion doses under a deal with the Serum Institute of India.

Soriot told reporters Saturday that conversations were also under way with the governments of many other nations, including Japan, Russia and Brazil.

"We are also looking at China," he said, "China, as you know, are developing their own vaccines. ... It's important to make several bets on different vaccines in every country."

The vaccine was developed by Oxford University's Jenner Institute, working with the Oxford Vaccine Group.

Testing of the experimental COVID-19 vaccine began in April with a study involving over 1,000 healthy volunteers in Britain aged 18 to 55. Another round of testing with 10,000 volunteers began last month.

Other companies, including Moderna and Sanofi, are racing to develop and produce a vaccine to protect against the new coronavirus, a step experts say will be crucial to allowing countries to ease public health lockdowns and restrictions on public life.

Nation

Trump moved Tulsa rally date after learning about Juneteenth

BRIDGEWATER, N.J. (AP)—President Donald Trump didn't know the significance to black Americans of the date and location he chose for his first campaign rally since the coronavirus pandemic more than three months ago, key Republican supporters of the president in Congress said Sunday.

Trump had scheduled the rally for June 19, known as Juneteenth because it marks the end of slavery in the United States. Tulsa, Oklahoma, the location for the rally, was the scene in 1921 of one of the most severe white-on-black attacks in American history.

Black community and political leaders denounced the move and called on Trump to reschedule. He resisted until late Friday when, in a rare turnabout, Trump tweeted that he had moved the rally to this Saturday, June 20, out of respect for the view of supporters and others who had asked him to.

"There's special sensitivities there in Tulsa, but Juneteenth is a very significant day, so my encouragement to the president was to be able to pick a day around it," Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., said Sunday. Lankford said he was among several people who had spoken with Trump.

Lankford said he had called Trump on an unrelated matter and that Trump broached the issue. He said Trump told him he was thinking about rescheduling and asked



President Donald Trump speaks during a roundtable discussion with African-American supporters in the Cabinet Room of the White House, Wednesday, June 10, 2020, in Washington. AP

Lankford's opinion.

"I suggested, 'Yes, I think that would be a great idea. It would be very, very respectful to the community,'" Lankford said. He said Trump immediately said he didn't want to do anything that would show disrespect to the black community.

"He didn't see it as disrespectful to be able to do it on Juneteenth," Lankford said. "Other people interpreted it

differently and so he moved the rally date."

Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., said he was "thankful" that Trump rescheduled the rally.

"The president moving the date by a day once he was informed on what the Juneteenth was, that was a good decision on his part," said Scott, the only black Republican senator.

Housing Secretary Ben Carson said he was "pleas-

antly surprised" at how much Trump knew about Juneteenth by the time they talked about it. He said "it's probably good" the rally was rescheduled.

Carson, who is black, suggested Trump was considering delivering remarks to "acknowledge what had happened there and why we don't want that kind of situation to ever occur in this country again."

Scott said it wasn't clear to him that Trump's planners

understood the significance of June 19.

But Trump's campaign was aware, according to two campaign officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose internal discussions.

When the date was discussed, it was noted that Democratic presidential nominee Joe Biden had held a fundraiser in 2019 on Juneteenth. Although selecting June 19 was not meant to be incendiary,

some pushback was expected, the Trump campaign officials said. But they were caught off guard by the intensity and, in particular, the link to the 1921 massacre.

Trump had been under pressure over his response to civil unrest following the death of George Floyd, a black man, by a white Minneapolis police officer at the time his return to campaign rallies was announced, including tweets that were interpreted as insensitive to African Americans.

Scott also said he's open to making Juneteenth a federal holiday to help raise public awareness.

Trump and the Republican Party are also facing criticism for arranging for Trump to formally accept his party's nomination for reelection in Jacksonville, Florida, on Aug. 27—a day remembered as Ax Handle Saturday in the city.

On that day 60 years ago, a group of young black men and women had just dispersed from a peaceful protest in downtown Jacksonville when a mob of whites began indiscriminately clubbing African Americans.

The anniversary will be commemorated in a public square across from City Hall—on the same day as Trump's televised address.

Lankford was interviewed on CNN's "State of the Union," Scott appeared on CBS' "Face the Nation" and Carson spoke on ABC's "This Week."

Experts hail swift moves in wake of Atlanta police shooting

Atlanta police on Sunday quickly released body-camera and other footage that captured the shooting death of a black man by a white officer who was swiftly fired—moves that policing experts said could help defuse anti-racism protests that were reignited by the shooting.

Atlanta police announced that an officer, Garrett Rolfe, had been fired after he fatally shot Rayshard Brooks, 27, on Friday night, and another officer, Devin Brosnan, had been placed on administrative duty. On Saturday, Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms had called for the immediate firing of the officer who opened fire on Brooks and announced that she had accepted the resignation of Police Chief Erika Shields.

"I do not believe that this was a justified use of deadly force," Bottoms said.

Roughly 150 protesters marched Saturday night around the Wendy's restaurant outside where Brooks was shot, reigniting demon-

strations that had largely simmered in the Georgia capital nearly three weeks after George Floyd, another black man, died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee to his neck. Both Rolfe and Brosnan are white.

The firing of Rolfe and the quick release of the video to the public could go a long way toward easing tensions in the city, said Andy Harvey, a veteran law enforcement officer who is now a police chief in Ennis, Texas, and the author of books and training curriculum on community policing.

"Transparency today is a whole different ball game. It's what the community expects," Harvey said. "We have to always be open about the good, the bad and the ugly. Not just the good. I think it actually builds trust and confidence when we're open about the ugly as well."

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said that Brooks, who was seen on body camera video sleeping in a car blocking the Wendy's drive

thru, failed a sobriety test and was shot in a struggle over a police Taser.

Cedric Alexander, the former public safety director of Dekalb County, Georgia, who now works as a police consultant, said the shooting will undoubtedly lead to questions about how officers might have defused the situation.

"Here's a man who took it upon himself to pull off the road to take a nap," Alexander said. "Could they have given him a ride home, could they have called him an Uber, and let him sleep it off later, as opposed to arresting him? Now that does not in any kind of way excuse Mr. Brooks for resisting arrest. But the question is: Are there other protocols that police could have taken?"

"And people will ask the question, had he been white and pulled onto the side of the road to take a nap and sleep it off, would they have given him a ride home?"

The Wendy's was set aflame at one point Saturday night, although the fire was

out before midnight. Atlanta police said Sunday that 36 people had been arrested in connection with the protests, but gave no further details. A makeshift memorial had been erected outside the restaurant Sunday morning.

In Washington, D.C., meanwhile, a group of interfaith leaders held a prayer vigil Sunday outside St. John's Church near the White House, where President Donald Trump held a June 1 appearance that sparked criticism after protesters were forcibly cleared from the area.

The faith leaders, representing multiple Christian denominations as well as Jewish, Muslim, Hindu and Sikh faiths, addressed a crowd of several dozen at the edge of the recently named Black Lives Matter Plaza with a message of racial justice.

The rapidly unfolding movement to take down Confederate statues and other polarizing monuments in the U.S. also grew over the weekend. (AP)

Seattle is a young city with a long history of protests

SEATTLE (AP)—Large protests in Seattle over police brutality and racial injustice have again caught the nation's eye, but big, unruly demonstrations have been part of the city since shortly after it was founded in 1851 by settlers in a log cabin on a lonely strip of land along the Puget Sound.

Demonstrators this week staked out several blocks near downtown Seattle after officers withdrew from a police station following violent confrontations. They named it the "Capitol Hill Autonomous Zone," demanded broad reforms and have faced blowback from President Donald Trump, who called them anarchist occupiers.

Similar descriptions of Seattle protests have been used for more than 100 years, stretching from large labor movements before World War I to the massive

1999 WTO trade protests.

"Seattle went from log cabin to the Space Needle in a very short period of time," said Knute Berger, a local writer and historian. Large demonstrations here have been national news since the Wobblies—the Industrial Workers of the World labor union—were active in the area around World War I, Berger said.

The city's reputation as a hub of protest was sealed by the huge Seattle workers strike in 1919, when tens of thousands of workers walked out for days to demand better wages and conditions. For decades, Seattle has often been synonymous with unrest, especially for critics of social change, Berger said.

"Back in the '30s, we were considered 'the Soviet of Seattle.' After WTO, the word was used as, well, 'We don't want another Seattle.'"

Asia



Rappler CEO and Executive Editor Maria Ressa, wearing a protective mask, exits a disinfection area before attending a court hearing at Manila Regional Trial Court, Philippines on Monday June 15, 2020. AP

PH journalist convicted of libel

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An award-winning journalist critical of the Philippine president was convicted of libel and sentenced to jail Monday in a decision called a major blow to press freedom in an Asian bastion of democracy.

The Manila court found Maria Ressa, her online news site Rappler Inc. and former reporter Reynaldo Santos Jr. guilty of libeling a wealthy businessman. The Rappler's story on May 29, 2012, cited an unspecified intelligence report linking him to a murder, drug dealing, human trafficking and smuggling. The site's lawyers disputed any malice and said the time limit for filing the libel complaint had passed.

"The decision for me is devastating because it essentially says that Rappler, that we are wrong," Ressa said in a news conference after the ruling. Her voice cracking, she vowed that "we will keep fighting" and appealed to journalists and Filipinos to continue fighting for their rights "and hold power to account."

Ressa was sentenced to up to six years but was not immediately taken into custody. She posted bail for the

case last year, and her lawyer, Theodore Te, said they will appeal the verdict.

"The verdict against Maria Ressa highlights the ability of the Philippines' abusive leader to manipulate the laws to go after critical, well-respected media voices whatever the ultimate cost to the country," said Phil Robertson of Human Rights Watch, adding the verdict was "a frontal assault on freedom of the press that is critical to protect and preserve Philippines democracy."

President Rodrigo Duterte and other Philippine officials have said the criminal complaints against Ressa and Rappler were not a press freedom issue but a part of normal judicial procedures arising from their alleged violations of the law.

Businessman Wilfredo Keng dismissed the allegations in the 2012 story as baseless and false and said Rappler refused to take down the story online and publish his side of the story. He provided government certifications in court to show that he has no criminal record and sought 50 million pesos (\$1 million) in damages, but the court awarded a much smaller fine.

Rappler's lawyers said the story was based on an intelligence report and that the one-year period under Philippine penal law when a libel complaint can be filed had ended when Keng filed a lawsuit in 2017, five years after the story was published online.

A cybercrime law, which Rappler allegedly violated, was also enacted in September 2012 or four months after the story written by Santos was published. Rappler's lawyers said Philippine penal laws cannot be retroactively applied.

Rappler, however, acknowledged that it updated the story in February 2014 to correct a misspelled word but said it did not make any other changes. The Department of Justice, which brought the libel charges to court, contended that by updating the story, Rappler effectively republished the story online in 2014, an argument dismissed by the news site's lawyers.

The Department of Justice cited another law to say that a complaint can be filed under the 2012 cybercrime law for up to 12 years, countering Rappler's argument that Keng's complaint was invalid due to being outside the one-year deadline for libel.

18 dead, 189 hurt as tanker truck explodes on China highway

BEIJING (AP)—A tanker truck exploded on a highway in southeastern China on Saturday, killing 18 people and injuring at least 189 others, authorities said.

The explosion caused extensive damage to nearby buildings. One photo showed firefighters hosing down a row of buildings with blown-out facades well into the night.

The truck carrying liquefied gas exploded around 4:45 p.m. on the Shenyang-Haikou Expressway south of Shanghai in Zhejiang province, the official Xinhua News Agency said, citing local authorities.

A second explosion followed when the truck fell onto a factory workshop, Xinhua said.

The Wenling city government information office said on its social media account that houses and workshops collapsed and 189 people were treated at six hospitals.

A worker at a nearby restaurant told Xinhua that the blast shattered the windows of her home, but that her mother and brother were unharmed.

World

French leader rejects racism but colonial statues to remain

PARIS (AP)—French President Emmanuel Macron has vowed Sunday to stand firm against racism but also praised police and insisted that France wouldn't take down statues of controversial, colonial-era figures, as he addressed the issues for the first time since George Floyd's death in the U.S.

In a televised address to the nation on Sunday evening, Macron called for the nation's "unity" at a key moment when the country is trying to put the coronavirus crisis behind while being shaken by a series of protests against racial injustice and police brutality.

Echoing American protesters, demonstrators in France have expressed anger at discrimination within French society, particularly toward minorities from the country's former colonies in Africa.

Unusually for a French leader, Macron acknowledged that someone's "address, name, color of skin" can reduce their chances at succeeding in French society, and called for a fight to ensure that everyone can "find their place" regardless of ethnic origin or religion. He promised to be "uncompromising in the face of racism, anti-Semitism and discrimination."

However, he insisted that France will not take down statues of controversial, colonial-era figures as has happened in some other countries in recent weeks.

Amid calls for taking down statues tied to France's slave trade or colonial wrongs, Macron said "the republic will not erase any trace, or any name, from its history ... it will not take down any statue."

"We should look at all of our history together with lucidity" including relations with Africa, with a goal of "truth" instead of "denying who we are," Macron said.

Pope Francis urges aid to migrants and end to Libya fighting

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Pope Francis on Sunday urged political and military leaders in Libya to end their hostilities and called on the international community to take "to heart" the plight of migrants trapped in the lawless nation.

During his weekly blessing overlooking St. Peter's Square, the pontiff called for "an end to the violence" and a

path toward "peace, stability and unity" in the country.

He said thousands of migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people are "more vulnerable to forms of exploitation and violence."

"There is cruelty," the pope said, departing from prepared remarks. "We all have responsibility. No one

can feel exempt."

The Pope's comments came as forces allied with a U.N.-supported government in the capital Tripoli are preparing to launch an attack on rival forces led by military commander Khalifa Hifter in the strategic coastal city of Sirte. If successful, it could help them seize key oil fields and facilities in Libya's south.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

† Juana Jones Castro Dela Cruz

"Juanet"



In commemoration of her passing to her new life,
we the children and family would like to invite our relatives
and friends for the daily Mass of Intentions.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Cathedral
Friday, June 12 to Saturday, June 20, 2020 - 6:00 AM

Please join us in prayers.
From Children and Family

Overdrive

By Larry Printz
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

How does Mazda do it?

Once more, the little car company that can from Hiroshima, Japan has delivered a svelte little automotive bon-bon sure to win the hearts of automotive enthusiasts and design junkies. Dubbed the CX-30, it's larger and rides higher than the CX-3, but is smaller than the CX-5. You'd think they'd call it the CX-4, but another Mazda with that name already exists, albeit overseas.

Of course, they could have called it Goldilocks, for this compact crossover is the perfect size for city/suburban commuting warfare, with a starting price of just \$21,900 for the base front-wheel-drive model. But wait, it gets better. There's plenty of goodness for that low, low price, including automatic headlights, rain-sensing windshield wipers, remote keyless entry with push-button start, power windows and door locks, eight-speaker sound system with Bluetooth hands-free phone and audio, HD Radio, Pandora integration, and two USB ports. There are also the sort of standard driver-assistance features you'd be surprised to find at this price, such as electronic brakeforce distribution with brake-assist, driver attention alert, stability control, traction control, lane departure warning system with lane-keep assist, and radar cruise control. Yes, it has a rear-view camera, but that's now a federal requirement, as is the tire-monitoring system.

If your new CX-30 just has to have Apple CarPlay, Android Auto, blind spot monitoring, rear cross-traffic alert, dual-zone automatic climate control, a leather-wrapped



(MAZDA/TNS)
The 2020 Mazda CX-30.

The 2020 Mazda CX-30 is just right

steering wheel and shift knob, or leatherette seats, or rear air-conditioning vents, you'll have to add the Select Package. And it gets nicer from there thanks to the Preferred Package (eight-way driver power seat with power lumbar support and driver seat memory, heated front seats, overhead console w/ sunglass holder, Bose premium audio with 12 speakers and SiriusXM satellite radio and vanity mirror illumination among other features) or the Premium Package (head-up display, adaptive front lighting, cylinder deactivation, led lights, leather seats, paddle shifters, power liftgate, radar cruise control, power sliding-glass moonroof and roof rails).

Mazda has mastered the art of sublime understatement, strikingly elegant, and looking far more expensive than it is. It's not just the generous sue of French seams; it's small touch-

es, such as the padding on the side of the center console where your knee rests, or the spear of chrome that runs across the instrument panel, much like a 1960s American sedan. There are also some modern interpretations of classic forms such as the climate control, which looks like an old school radio with two knobs flanking the horizontal readout and a row of five small buttons underneath. It's very clever. And the use of four colors on our Premium model test vehicle was a welcome change from the ubiquitous black, gray or beige interiors that infect too many car interiors.

Controls are easy to understand and operate, with the exception of Mazda's infotainment system. The sleek graphics and crisp display are easy to see, and operate using a knob mounted on the center console. But it takes far too many hits and scrolls to do something simple, like change

a radio station, especially while driving. It's not a deal breaker; it's more of an annoyance of daily commuting, particularly in Sport mode, although you have to mash the throttle for strong sprints off the line. But that's easily overlooked thanks to the CX-30's agility. Grip is impressive, and body lean very well controlled. Steering is nicely weighted without feeling heavy or artificial. Ride is firm and jiggly over bumps, but impressively quiet and subdued otherwise. It makes for an engagingly fun drive, much like an MX-5 Miata with lots of passenger and cargo space.

There's good power once at speed; it feels punchy enough to deal with the cut and thrust of daily commuting, particularly in Sport mode, although you have to mash the throttle for strong sprints off the line. But that's easily overlooked thanks to the CX-30's agility. Grip is impressive, and body lean very well controlled. Steering is nicely weighted without feeling heavy or artificial. Ride is firm and jiggly over bumps, but impressively quiet and subdued otherwise. It makes for an engagingly fun drive, much like an MX-5 Miata with lots of passenger and cargo space.

Unlike its competition, Mazda engineers wisely bypassed using a turbocharged engine. Instead they endow the CX-30 with a normally-aspirated 2.5-liter four rated 186 horsepower and 186 pound-feet of torque through a six-speed automatic transmission. Front-wheel drive is standard; all-wheel drive is optional.

There's good power once at speed; it feels punchy enough to deal with the cut and thrust of daily commuting, particularly in Sport mode, although you have to mash the throttle for strong sprints off the line. But that's easily overlooked thanks to the CX-30's agility. Grip is impressive, and body lean very well controlled. Steering is nicely weighted without feeling heavy or artificial. Ride is firm and jiggly over bumps, but impressively quiet and subdued otherwise. It makes for an engagingly fun drive, much like an MX-5 Miata with lots of passenger and cargo space.

The only real hiccup occurred during an intense thunderstorm, when two messages flashed on the instrument

cluster: "safety and driver support systems temporarily disabled" and "front radar obscured. Drive safely." Given the weather was exactly when you'd want these systems to be active, it was a bit disconcerting. That said, having driven safely for five decades without them, I wasn't worried.

It's easy to find a comfortable driving position, and front seat occupants will have no problem getting comfortable. The same can't be said of the second row, where legroom is in short supply, but if the second row is only an occasional use item, or you have small children, this is not an issue. The view out is fairly good in all directions with the exception of rear-quarter visibility.

It's all wrapped in sheet metal wardrobe accented with lower bodyside cladding that lends this Mazda CX-30 an upscale yet outdoorsy allure.

The 2020 Mazda CX-30's sophisticated charisma outshines its many competitors, making it a must-drive alternative in what is quickly becoming a rather humdrum segment of the automotive market.

NUTS & BOLTS

2020 MAZDA CX-30

- Base price: \$21,900-\$29,600
- Engine: 2.5-liter DOHC four-cylinder
- Horsepower/Torque: 186/186
- EPA fuel economy (city/highway): 25/33 mpg
- Fuel required: Regular
- Length/Width/Height: 173/70.7/62.2 inches
- Ground clearance: 6.9 inches
- Cargo capacity: 20.2 cubic feet
- Towing capacity: Not rated
- Curb weight: 3,408 pounds

Motormouth: After-market blind-spot sensor

Q: Do you recommend the installation of an after-market blind-spot sensor? It would go on a 2012 Camry. If so, what are recommended brands and who installs them?

A: If you have an older car, or one that was not equipped with a blind-spot sensor, an aftermarket kit may be the answer. But—and this is a big but—they are expensive. Low priced units cost around \$200-300 while the better ones are in the \$500 range. Experts say that none are as good as the factory installed ones, but the pricier ones come close. Coming close is what you want to avoid with another vehicle, too. If you have not yet won the lottery, there are inexpensive, stick-on blind spot mirrors.

Q: I want to respond to the tire sealant problems. About a year ago I was coming back from Cape Cod and in the trunk of my car I had a large explosion. At the next truck stop I discovered that a full can of tire sealant had exploded in my trunk. What a mess: sticky, gooey foam everywhere on our luggage, clothing and gifts. Do you have any ideas on how to prevent this in the future? I love to carry that stuff because it's a lifesaver, but I don't want to go through anything like that again. You have to warn people that the can says do not store above 120 degrees and I guess my trunk was much higher than that.

A: Some tire sealant products are under pressure to help

inflate the tire while sealing. Other products are not under pressure but need an auxiliary pump to finish the job. Many carmakers are losing the spare tire and substituting a kit containing a sealant and a pump that plugs into the car's 12-volt auxiliary (cigarette lighter) port. Sorry to hear about your messy experience. Did you get everything clean? One more thought: Check with your insurance carrier as this accident may be covered under the compressive coverage.

Q: I read your column reference tire sealer for vehicles with no spare tire. Good subject for a future column would be tire sealers. I recall seeing in tire repair shops that they would not repair a tire if tire sealer had been

used as a temporary repair. Perhaps tire sealing products have improved?

A: Actually, many tire technicians would rather not work on a tire that has goo in it. Most of the products remain liquid or gel. It coats the inside of the tire and the rim. Both must be cleaned before the tire can be professionally, and permanently, patched. Even with a new tire, the rim must first be cleaned. Yuck. "Hey Timmy, I've got a job for you."

Q: I noticed the segment about the swollen lug nuts in a recent Motormouth column. On two occasions I have had to replace lug bolts on our 2014 Subaru Forester. The tire guy at Cassidy Tire suspected a supplier had used "soft steel" (his term)

By BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune



Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, Consumer Guide and Consumers Digest. Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 160 N. Stetson Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60601 or motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.

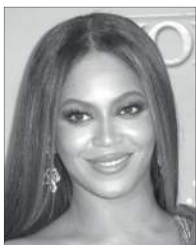
for the lug bolts. (The service rep at the dealership declined to comment.) Regardless, it's an expensive fix and there's not much the owner can do when the car is up on the rack, the wheel is off and there's no way to put it back on without replacing the stripped lug bolt.

A: There is plenty of anecdotal evidence of Subaru lug stud (not called a bolt) breakage. I don't know the underlying reason. My suggestion is to avoid replacing the damaged studs with factory (Subaru) studs. I have confidence in Dorman brand products, especially their fasteners.

Life & Style

Beyoncé wants officers charged in black woman's death

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—Beyoncé has joined the call for charges against officers involved in the shooting of Breonna Taylor, a black woman gunned down by officers who burst into her Kentucky home.



Beyoncé

Sunday to Kentucky Attorney General Daniel Cameron that the three Louisville police officers "must be held accountable for their actions."

The officers, Jon Mattingly, Brett Hankison and Myles

Cosgrove, have been placed

on administrative reassignment while the shooting is investigated.

"Your office has both the power and the responsibility to bring justice to Breonna Taylor, and demonstrate the

value of a Black woman's life," said the letter released on the singer's website.

Taylor, 26, who was studying to become a nurse, was shot eight times by officers conducting a narcotics investi-

gation on March 13. No drugs were found at her home. The city of Louisville last week banned the used of controversial "no-knock" warrants.

Taylor's aunt, Bianca Austin, has said the family

wants the officers fired and prosecuted.

Protests over several days in Louisville were fueled by Taylor's shooting and the death of George Floyd, a black man in police custody in Minneapolis.

6 Book Critics Circle officials resign, citing privacy breach

NEW YORK (AP)—The president and five other board members of the National Book Critics Circle have resigned amid allegations of racism and violations of privacy.

Laurie Hertzler, who had served as president since 2019, announced over the weekend she was leaving the 24-member board. Her departure came two days after another board member, Ugandan-American writer Hope Wabuke, posted redacted screenshots on Twitter of an email exchange that included correspondence from Hertzler and board member Carlin Romano. The NBCC had been crafting a response to the worldwide protests against police racism and violence.

"As members of the NBCC board were trying to work out the wording of a statement in support of Black Lives Matter and against racism, especially in our own realm of publishing, private exchanges were made public on Twitter, which made it impossible to continue with this discussion in good faith," Hertzler wrote.

"I, along with five of our board members resigned, though not in a coordinated fashion. I can only speak for myself when I say that such a breach of confidence precludes the sort of deliberations that are essential to the NBCC's mission as a critical organization."

Romano, a former NBCC president, had raised objections in his email to the proposed statement from the NBCC board, notably that "White gatekeepers" in publishing "stifle black voices." Romano responded that many black writers had benefited from "good-willed white editors and publishers" and that he had seen "far more of white people helping black writers than of black people helping white writers."

Romano, whose name was redacted in Wabuke's screenshot, confirmed to The Associated Press that he had written it but otherwise declined comment. As of Sunday evening, he was still listed as a board member on the book critic website, bookcritics.org.

Popular Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput, 34, found dead

MUMBAI, India (AP)—Popular Bollywood actor Sushant Singh Rajput was found dead at his Mumbai residence on Sunday, police and Indian media reports said.

Initial reports citing police said the 34-year-old actor was found hanging in his apartment in suburban Bandra.

Mumbai police spokesperson Pranaya Ashok confirmed the death and said details

were being investigated.

Rajput, who started as a TV actor, made his Bollywood debut in 2013 with director Abhishek Kapoor in "Kai Po Che," based on the book by Chetan Bhagat.

Social media was flooded with condolences for the actor, with



Rajput

many reacting to the news with disbelief.

"Sushant Singh Rajput...a bright young actor gone too soon," Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted. "He excelled on

TV and in films. His rise in the world of entertainment inspired many and he leaves behind several memo-

rable performances. Shocked by his passing away. My thoughts are with his family and fans. Om Shanti."

Bollywood star Akshay Kumar wrote on Twitter, "Honestly this news has left me shocked and speechless."

"I can't believe this at all... it's shocking... a beautiful actor and a good friend... it's disheartening," actor Nawazuddin Siddiqui tweeted.

Spike Lee issues apology after defending Woody Allen

NEW YORK (AP)—After voicing support for Woody Allen and criticizing cancel culture, Spike Lee apologized Saturday for words he said were "wrong."

In an interview Friday on the New York radio station WOR 710, Lee called Allen "a great, great filmmaker."

"This cancel thing is not just Woody. And I think that when we look back on it, (we're) [going to] see that, short of killing somebody, I don't if you can just erase somebody like they never existed. Woody's a friend of mine," said Lee. "I know he's going through it right now."

The following day, Lee tweeted an apology.

"My words were WRONG," he wrote. "I do not and will not tolerate sexual harassment, assault or violence. Such treatment causes real damage that can't be minimized."

Allen has been accused of molesting his daughter Dylan Farrow when she was 7 years old in the early 1990s. Allen has long denied the allegation. Earlier this year, he released a memoir through Arcade Publishing after his original publisher, Hachette Book Group, dropped the book amid widespread criticism.

Bars reopening in New Orleans. Will tourists come?

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Bar owners in New Orleans prepared for a soft opening, and an uncertain one, as they began letting customers in Saturday for the first time in months. Capacity is limited to 25 percent, live music remains prohibited, and nobody knows how many tourists will show

on Bourbon Street in the age of COVID-19.

Pam Fortner, owner of six French Quarter venues, is opening only two of them, both on Bourbon, where the customary blocks-long frat party atmosphere ended in an abrupt shutdown in mid-March.

Now, she's not sure what to

expect. She sat at a sidewalk table at Royal and St. Ann on Thursday, eating a Caesar salad and deriving hope from the occasional out-of-state license plate she saw amid sparse traffic.

"I think Saturday will be busy," she said in an interview.

Cherie Boos, manager of Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop, in

an authentically rustic, creaky floored 18th-century Creole cottage, said she's hoping locals will help keep the bar financially afloat as Bourbon Street revives. But she adds, "We're hoping that, you know, we can start generating some tourists in the city, too, now that the bars are going to be open."

Brother's campaign for office finds no support from sibling

DEAR ABBY: My oldest brother is running for a state office. Unlike me, he does not like animals. He has "hauled" litters of puppies off and shot at cats. In addition, he refuses to help our elderly parents. Family or not, I don't want someone to be a leader in our state capital who exhibits such poor moral and unethical behavior.

He has been married several times, and I know for a fact he cheated on one of his wives. I avoid attending his fundraisers and asking for votes, but other family members keep telling me that "blood is thicker than water," and that I "must" vote for him regardless of his behavior. Of course, behind the curtain I can vote for whoever I want, but should I cave to the pressure to show up in support of him at public events? Even my husband said I should donate money to his campaign because he is family. What is your opinion?

NON-SUPPORTER IN THE SOUTH

DEAR NON-SUPPORTER: If you do not support a candidate, keep your checkbook closed. And as to showing up to endorse your brother's run for office, continue to refrain and cross your fingers that your absence won't be noticed amidst all the excitement. If your husband wants to donate to your morally degenerate brother's campaign, it is his choice, and he has a right to it just as you have a right to yours.

P.S. Anyone who would shoot at a defenseless animal and neglect his aged parents ("Honor thy father and thy

mother") really doesn't belong in ANY office.

DEAR ABBY: My wife of 39 years decided two weeks ago to cease all communication with me. We had a sometimes-rocky marriage, but since becoming empty-nesters six months ago, we have enjoyed a rebirth of our relationship—long walks, games, fun meals, concerts, etc.

Two weeks ago, we had what I thought was a minor disagreement about the use of a credit card. Since then she has treated me like I don't exist. She answers my questions with one word only or no response. I have begged her to talk to me about what's wrong; she just turns away. She has altered her daily schedule to avoid having contact with me. I am shattered. What can I do?

CLUELESS IN TENNESSEE

DEAR CLUELESS: It's time to review why your marriage to this woman was "rocky." Stop begging, step back and count yourself fortunate that you have had this reminder. Counseling might help you and your wife to communicate in a healthier way if she is willing to try. However, if she isn't, you will have to decide how much more "punishment" you are willing to tolerate when you disagree, and what is realistic to do about it if you aren't.

DEAR ABBY: We have a neighbor whose adult son has gotten into trouble with the law. His mom and dad are devas-

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



tated and have withdrawn from all of us. How do we handle it when we see them around the neighborhood? Do we ignore "the elephant" and just say hi? Do we ask them how their son is doing? It's so sad to see them suffer, and we don't know what to do.

WHAT TO DO IN THE EAST

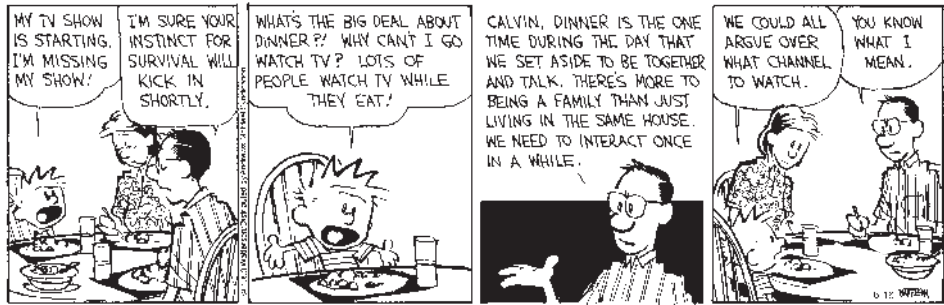
DEAR WHAT TO DO: When you see your neighbors, be cordial. Make polite conversation, and if they mention their son, listen to what they have to say and be supportive, but not judgmental.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

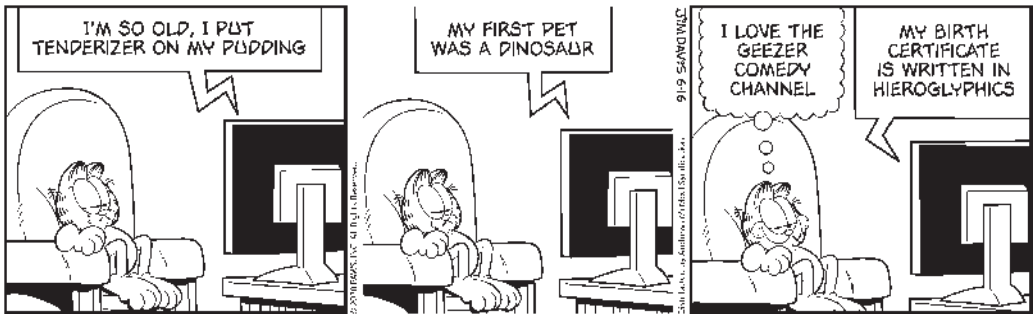
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 "Lion King" villain
5 "Veep" ailer
8 "Toodle-oo!"
12 Deal (with)
13 Noah's vessel
14 "Topaz" author
15 Vipers
16 Cellar
18 Single
20 Enthusiasm
21 Body art, for short
22 Costa del —
23 Full of foam
26 Stronghold
30 "— Believer"
31 Mardi Gras VIP
32 One of the five W's
33 Timid
36 Ice cream utensil
38 Bol. neighbor
39 Season opener?

DOWN

40 Sculptor Henry
43 Turkey cooking gadgets
47 Weaving art
49 Actor Rickman
50 Tennis great Arthur
51 "Norma —"
52 Corporate symbol
53 Jazz legend Getz
54 Bio stat
55 Rebuff
1 Wound cover
2 — Nostra
3 PC programs
4 Puts back to zero
5 Custom
6 Nanny's headache
7 Approves
8 Uproar
9 God of war
10 Shade
11 Regarding
17 Hollywood clasher
19 Stable diet?
22 Kenny G's instrument
23 Bro or sis
24 Hollywood's Thurman
25 German article
26 — canto
27 — Jima
28 Discoverer's call
29 "Smoking or —?"
31 Bad hairpiece
34 Lend an ear
35 Gratis
36 Soon-to-be grads
37 Rose parts
39 Check recipient
40 Some corp. recruits
41 Brewer's kiln
42 Fed. workplace monitor
43 Boast
44 Carolina college
45 Pasta sauce brand
46 Uppity one
48 La-la lead-in

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-16

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Abby Elliott, 33; Eddie Cibrian, 47; Phil Mickelson, 50; Laurie Metcalf, 65.

Happy Birthday: Step forward, not back. Clear the way to new beginnings. Use discipline and courage to help you achieve the life you want to live. Preparation will pay off, so focus on what it is you want to accomplish. Take advantage of on-line courses, and spend time honing skills that can help you get ahead. Protect against outside interference and indulgent temptations. Your numbers are 6, 17, 25, 29, 38, 40, 43.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Slow down, and take a moment to look around and see what everyone is doing. The more you observe, the greater leverage you'll have when it comes time for you to step into the spotlight. Be responsible, not reactionary. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Follow your instincts. Don't hesitate because someone can't make up his or her mind. How you feel should determine what you do next. Pursue a goal that helps you get what you want without breaking any rules or regulations. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Make personal improvements that lift your spirit and give you the courage to conquer your dreams. Stick to whatever plan or path you choose, and don't stop until you are happy with the results you achieve. Change begins within. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Look for a way to help. Be part of the solution. Share your thoughts and opinions. Do whatever it takes to collaborate with people who share your plan.

Be reluctant to deal with institutions and government agencies without sufficient preparation. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Take care of personal matters first. Address concerns regarding your appearance, health and relationships with others. You may crave change, but hold off until you are ready to initiate what you want to happen. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put your plans to the test. Step up and share your thoughts with those who have the means to help you get what you want. Beware of anyone bold, smooth and offering too much for too little. Trust your instincts. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Question any relationship that is too demanding. Concentrate on what makes you happy and how you see yourself moving forward. Don't buy into a plan that you don't feel passionate about or that will deter you from following your heart. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Share your feelings, work on a plan that fits your budget and bring about the changes that will make you happy. Don't limit what you can do; with time, effort and compromise, you can turn your home into your personal Shangri-La. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Plan to do something energetic. Keeping active will help you ward off pent-up feelings and a potential argument. Give yourself the time to think about what you want and how best to proceed. Make a promise to someone you love. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your heart and soul into turning your residence into a place that encourages you to explore new interests and expand your entertainment center. Work with whoever you share your space with to ensure you achieve something perfect for everyone. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take a step back, look at what you are up against and consider how to make the best use of your time. Don't feel responsible for someone's happiness. It's time to work on personal growth and what pleases you. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stifle unsavory situations before they have a chance to grow. An intelligent approach to whatever problem you face, coupled with hands-on work to make your environment better for everyone you live with, will make your life easier. ***

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, outspoken and determined. You are aggressive and reactive.

Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

8			5					1
	3						2	4
	5		1	7				
		1	3		6			
9			6	1				3
		2		9		4		
			3	9			5	
	9	3					7	
7			4					6

Difficulty Level ★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	3	6	4	8	7	2	1	5
2	5	4	1	9	3	6	7	8
8	7	1	6	2	5	3	9	4
6	1	5	7	4	8	9	3	2
7	9	8	3	6	2	4	5	1
4	2	3	9	5	1	8	6	7
5	6	9	2	7	4	1	8	3
1	8	2	5	3	9	7	4	6
3	4	7	8	1	6	5	2	9

By Tully Lind

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

ESSENTIAL WORKERS Solution: 9 letters

S S K N O I T C U R T S N O C
R K R R S A N E M R E H S I F
E S C E E K Y R E V I L E D A
D H T U N L R H J O B S M A R
N E B O R A C O U R T T D R M
O L T U R T E L W E S A E D S
P P M T A E N L K I S L N O E
S L A P I E L R C E A Y T C Y
E A S N M M A A S T R C I T R
R I K E A M M R S A O F S O E
D C R I R R U O T E F W T R C
E I L E A N P I C O L E I S O
F D P H T E L L E R S O T N R
S U P P L I E R S E M O H Y G
S J C O M M U N I T Y N E W S

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Cleaners, Clerk, Committed, Community, Construction, Court, Delivery, Dentist, Dispatcher, Doctors, Farms, Firemen, Fishermen, Grocery, Help, Home, Jobs, Judicial, Mail, Mask, Military, News, Nurses, Office, Pharmacist, Postal, Radio, Responder, Safety, Store, Supermarkets, Suppliers, Tellers, Towing, Trucks, Wholesaler, Works

Yesterday's Answer: Paddleball
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 37 through 51, order online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Playing for free, salary drop, lockout possible



NEW YORK
(AP)—Jer-
emy Jeffress,

Jordan Montgomery, Kevin Plawecki could be playing for free this season, earning salaries lower than what they already received as advances.

Mookie Betts, George Springer, J.T. Realmuto, James Paxton and Marcus Stroman are likely to find fewer bidders, dollars and contract years as the free-agent market lurches into a free fall next offseason.

And all of baseball could be bracing for a spring training lockout and shortened 2022 season after the coronavirus pandemic heightened the likelihood of the sport's first work stoppage since 1994-95.

"Bryce Harper, Manny Machado, Christian Yelich, all these guys are lucky that they signed," former Miami Marlins president David Samson said Sunday. "The biggest people you should watch this offseason are Mookie Betts and J.T. Realmuto because J.T. thought that he would surpass Joe Mauer and Buster Posey, and there is likely no chance. And Mookie Betts thought that he would be above Bryce Harper and I would view that as much less likely now."

The pathogen highlighted each side's economic interest: players care most about the regular season, when they accrue the entirety of their salaries; owners worry about the postseason, when \$787 million in broadcast revenue is due.

Major League Baseball owners are left with the decision of how long a regular season to schedule after players' union head Tony Clark said Saturday night that "unfortunately it appears that further dialogue with the league would be futile."

Bruce Meyer, the union's chief negotiator, sent Deputy Commissioner Dan Halem a letter that "we demand that you inform us of your plans by close of business on Monday."

A March 26 agreement called for players to receive prorated salaries and bound the sides to "complete the full-est 2020 championship season and postseason that is economically feasible," consistent with a series of provisions: no government restrictions on mass gatherings, no travel restrictions and no health or safety risk "to stage games in front of fans in each of the 30 clubs' home ballparks."

It also called for MLB and the union to "discuss in good faith the economic feasibility of playing games in the absence of spectators or at appropriate substitute neutral sites."

Commissioner Rob Man-



In this September 27, 2019 file photo, Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper steps up to the plate during their MLB game against the Miami Marlins at Citizens Bank Park in Philadelphia.

start to present the merits of the case.

Players have received \$170 million in salary advances, up to \$286,500 each. That means a player with a salary of about \$925,000 or less whose contract did not include a lower rate of pay while in the major leagues—Jeffress, Montgomery and Plawecki, among them—already has received more money that he would be owed under the proration formula.

Those players wouldn't have to return any money; instead, the money would be paid back to MLB by the union from taxes collected from teams for exceeding international signing bonus pool thresholds.

All players will lose chances to accumulate statistics for games lost that are never made up.

While they argue and file briefs, Betts, Realmuto and the rest are unlikely to reach the \$300 million-and-more deals given to Mike Trout, Harper, Giancarlo Stanton, Gerrit Cole and Machado. The average salary, stagnated around \$4.4 million since 2016, is likely to fall sharply this winter.

And if the coronavirus lingers into 2021, another season could be impacted. Unless the sides reach an agreement, the sides would argue whether MLB has the right to suspend the Uniform Player Contract during a national emergency, as Manfred threatened before the March agreement. Teams also will probably push for a pandemic provision in the guarantee language of new guaranteed contracts.

Bargaining during a major grievance will be even more difficult than usual heading into the labor contract's expiration on Dec. 1, 2021. Given the experience of 1994 and the union's threat to strike in 2002, teams would rather have a confrontation during spring training than in summer.

And if Joe Biden defeats Donald Trump in the presidential election and Democrats win control of both houses of Congress, player take-home could go down no matter what.

"If the Democrats win, I think they recognize that tax rates are going to go through the roof," former Commissioner Fay Vincent said. "\$40 million is an awful lot of money, but the tax on that is going to be extraordinary."

fired has threatened a regular-season of about 50 games, which would lead to players receiving about 31% of their salaries, about \$1.23 billion. That is less than the \$1.27 billion they were guaranteed in the offer they turned down, a deal worth \$1.45 billion if the postseason is completed.

MLB appears likely to announce a decision after Man-

fired confers with the 30 controlling owners.

Barring a move toward a deal, both sides probably will file grievances. The union would claim MLB failed to schedule the longest season possible and ask for money damages.

The union would say to make an evaluation it needs documents detailing the equity

relationships between baseball owners and regional sports networks, and between owners and real estate ventures adjacent to ballparks. MLB would claim the union did not bargain in good faith.

Players say they have no obligation to help clubs reduce expenses caused by playing in empty ballparks. Agent Scott Boras says the

MLB stance is akin to saying: "When lightning strikes you, you tell the runners no race until you fix my track."

Arbitrator Mark Irvings, who ruled against Chicago Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant in the service time manipulation grievance filed by the union, would likely spend months ruling on document demands before the sides even

Bill would force US soccer players to stand for anthem

FLORIDA—United States congressman Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) introduced a bill Friday that would force U.S. Soccer players to stand during the playing of the national anthem.

Gaetz floated the legislation after the United States Soccer Federation earlier this week repealed its 2017 requirement that players stand for the song. That rule went into effect after U.S. women's star Megan Rapinoe took a knee during "The Star-Spangled Banner" before a pair of USWNT matches in 2016 in solidarity with then-NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick's peaceful, constitutionally-protected protest of police brutality and systemic racism toward the African American community.

Those longstanding issues have roared into the mainstream consciousness like never before since the May

25 death of George Floyd, an unarmed black man killed while in police custody in Minnesota. Graphic video of that incident has sparked outrage not just in the U.S., but across the world.

A poll released Thursday showed that most Americans now support athletes' right to peacefully protest social issues, which wasn't the case when Kaepernick began to kneel respectfully before games four years ago this fall. The NFL has no rule forbidding the practice. On Friday, Houston Texans coach Bill O'Brien said he will also take a knee during the national anthem in support of his black players.

"The players have a right to protest, a right to be heard and a right to be who they are," O'Brien said. "They're not taking a knee because

they're against our flag. They're taking a knee because they haven't been treated equally in this country for over 400 years."

Gaetz, however, made it about the flag, rather than the rights it guarantees.

"I'd rather the US not have a soccer team than have a soccer team that won't stand for the National Anthem," he wrote on Twitter on Thursday. "You shouldn't get to play under our flag as our national team if you won't stand when it is raised."

On Friday, Gaetz said he would attempt to force U.S. Soccer to reinstate the rule or face unspecified "financial repercussions."

"I don't like soccer enough, for the U.S. to even have a soccer team, if that soccer team is going to disrespect our anthem and our flag,"



Gaetz said in a rambling statement released by his office. "It is not like some essential thing that we have to have, if latched to the US Soccer Team is this sense of such extreme woke-ness that we cannot be proud of the United States while wearing the uniform of the United States."

"I think this is very distinct from the NFL player kneeling thing," he continued. "As much as I oppose that and don't like it, at least those are private people, working for a private company...I certainly think that we have the right to compel that our national team stand for the national anthem."

President Donald Trump, perhaps the strongest opponent to the protests during the national anthem, tweeted about Gaetz's bill on Saturday afternoon. Apparently, he won't be watching "much" soccer or NFL anymore. (NBC)

Heartaches, wild finish at PGA Tour return



FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)— The PGA Tour returned with ferocity.

After a three-month pause induced by the coronavirus pandemic, competitive golf restarted this week at the Charles Schwab Challenge.

And Sunday's final round was a wild ride filled with lead changes, big shots, heartache and an eventual unexpected winner in Daniel Berger, who beat Collin Morikawa in a one-hole playoff.

After both golfers finished the fourth round at 15-under, they played the 17th hole as a playoff. Berger tapped in for par and Morikawa's putt to tie it from just outside 3 feet lipped out.

Berger dreamed of moments like this, a putt on the final hole with everything riding on it, and he pulled it off to perfection Sunday at Colonial.

What he never imagined is how quiet it would be.

No cheers when his 10-foot birdie on the final hole gave him a share of the lead. No groans when Morikawa missed a 6-foot birdie putt for the win. And more silence on the first playoff hole that Berger won with a par.

"It was a little different for sure, but in the end, I was holding the trophy," Berger said. "And that's all that matters to me."

The PGA Tour made a healthy and muted return from the COVID-19 pandemic, except for Morikawa and Xander Schauffele having reason to feel sick to their stomachs.

One hole after a chance to win in regulation, Morikawa hit a superb pitch on the 17th hole in the playoff to 3 feet. Berger converted his simple up-and-down for par from behind the green, and Morikawa's short par putt to extend the playoff hit the right side of the cup and spun out.

"Just hit a better putt," Morikawa said. "My mind can't go much else than other what just happened on that hole."

Schauffele, whose moxie is easy to miss behind his California cool, made three straight clutch putts—for par, bogey and birdie—that kept him tied for the lead only to learn new meaning of "Horrible Horseshoe" at Colonial. His 3-foot par putt on the 17th in regulation dipped in the hole on the right side and came out on the left.

His 25-foot birdie putt on the 18th to force a playoff was right on line and came up short.

"If there are fans and everything with the 'oohs' and 'aahs,' I'd probably be a little more (ticked) off," Schauffele said. "Maybe that's a good thing for me right now. But



Daniel Berger chips to the 11th green during the final round of the Charles Schwab Challenge golf tournament at the Colonial Country Club in Fort Worth, Texas, Sunday, June 14, 2020.

it was definitely weird. It was sort of an internal battle, which it always is for me, but more so internal this week just with no fans."

Berger, whose birdie on the 18th gave him a 4-under 66, won for the third time on the PGA Tour, all three titles coming on this week in the calendar. The other two in 2016 and 2017 were at the St. Jude Classic when it preceded the U.S. Open.

This felt different because Colonial was devoid of fans—just like the next four weeks will be on the PGA Tour—and because of the routine he followed. Berger went from the golf course to his rented house, his uncle serving as the chef. He had a saliva test in Florida and a nasal test when he arrived for the new coronavirus, both negative.

He was excited when he arrived—Berger has shot par or better every round since Oct. 11—because golf was back to business. And he was thrilled when he left, a winner again after missing nearly five months at the end of 2018 because of a wrist injury. The victory moved him from outside the top 100 to No. 31 in the world.

PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan, on the first tee when golf returned Thursday, was back in Florida watching a final round unfold with eight players taking turns at the top, and a half-dozen still in the mix over the final hour.

The scorecard this week included 487 tests for COVID-19 at Colonial, all returned negative. The leaders brought star power, Colonial brought heritage, and it was

the first live PGA Tour event since March 12 because of the pandemic.

"This has been a phenomenal start to our return," Monahan said.

It almost was a tremendous return for Morikawa, who is so steady that he already has won and has made every cut as a pro dating to his graduation from Cal a year ago. No newcomer has had a streak that long since Tiger Woods.

Morikawa took a share of the lead with a 50-foot putt on the 14th hole. It was the short ones that hurt.

"We gave ourselves our chance, and that's what you want at the end," Morikawa said. "Yeah, it's going to sting for a little bit but we'll make it out and we'll go on to next week."

Bryson DeChambeau (66), Justin Rose (66) and Jason

Kokrak (64) all had birdie chances on the 18th. Berger was the only who who delivered, and this time the playoff worked out in his favor.

Jordan Spieth, trying to end three years without a victory, left with a consolation prize of progress. He missed a 2-foot par putt on the sixth hole—part of three bogeys in a four-hole stretch—but was still in the mix until a tee shot out of bounds on the 14th. Even then, he made a 35-foot putt to save bogey. He wound up with a 71 and tied for 10th.

Rory McIlroy had seven straight tournaments no worse than fifth, a streak that came to a stunning halt. Starting the final round three shots behind, he was 5 over through seven holes and closed with a 74 to tie for 32nd.

Monahan conceded his biggest concern going into the week, even with its testing and safety procedure, was positive tests popping up. "That's something, candidly, that I lost a lot of sleep over in the weeks that preceded coming in," he said.

Next up is the RBC Heritage at Hilton Head on the South Carolina coast, and Monahan said the first week won't be complete until then to see how players handled the interstate travel. Those on the charter were tested after the third round. Everyone else would be tested when they arrived at Hilton Head.

"This is about a sustained return," Monahan said. "But I think as we sit here late in the day Sunday, there's no question that this has been an exceptional week."

Pats to use Brady's departure as motivation



NEW ENGLAND—No team uses bulletin board material and

other forms of motivation to its advantage better than the New England Patriots.

Even in the many instances over the last 20 years where the Patriots were one of the top two or three teams in the NFL, players often had a "nobody believes in us" attitude that fueled them each Sunday.

The Patriots won't have to look far for motivation entering the 2020 season.

Plenty of media members, fans and former players have cast doubt on the franchise's ability to remain a contender without longtime quarterback Tom Brady, who, of course, took his talents to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as a free agent back in March.

One of Brady's former teammates, Matt Light, recently said on NFL Network's "Good Morning Football" show that the Patriots will use their quarterback's departure as motivation in 2020.

"Most guys in the NFL want to tell you we don't need motivation," Light said. "We're here. We work hard. We're doing everything we have to do. We don't need the outside influences. But I'm going to tell you, it weighs in, and it weighs on each one of those players because the coaching staff is going to be a little bit tighter. There's a lot of question marks. A lot of things they got to figure out. Bill Belichick, his system—do your job, work hard, be attentive, put the team first—all those things he instills in those players week in and week out, well this is the real test. So all of those guys are

going to feel the weight of it.

"Are they going to have motivation to go out there and prove they can win without Tom Brady? Yeah, they'll use this."

Adjusting to Brady's departure and whoever replaces him as the starting quarterback aren't the only challenges for the Patriots in 2020. They also have one of the toughest regular season schedules in the league. The offseason is where teams build chemistry and incorporate new additions, but the COVID-19 pandemic has made that task even tougher.

Luckily for the Patriots, they still have plenty of leadership throughout their roster. And, of course, there's no better coach in football than Bill Belichick. Nobody prepares his team to handle adversity on and off the field better than him.

Meanwhile, the NFL plans to recognize Juneteenth as a league holiday.

Juneteenth is considered the oldest known celebration commemorating the ending of slavery in the United States. It was originally celebrated on June 19, the day that Union soldiers in 1865 told enslaved African Americans in Galveston, Texas, that the Civil War had ended and they were free.

"This year, as we work together as a family and in our communities to combat the racial injustices that remain deeply rooted into the fabric of our society, the NFL will observe Juneteenth on Friday, June 19th as a recognized holiday and our league offices will be closed," NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell said in the memo. (NBC/AP)

No divide among Lakers amid Howard's statement



LOS ANGELES—Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving made headlines on Friday when reports surfaced that he led an 80-player conference call, expressing why he believes the NBA season should not return amid the social justice movement following the death of George Floyd.

Dwight Howard was one of the players on the call, and the Lakers center voiced his support for Irving.

LeBron James, Howard's current teammate and Irving's former teammate, did not join the call, stating he believes that resuming the NBA season will not interfere with the Black Lives Matter movement and his ability to enact change in society.

While James and Howard have differing opinions on whether the league should resume, there's "no divide" between Lakers players,

according to ESPN's Dave McMenamin.

"Still have some time to figure things out as a league and as a team," one Lakers player said to ESPN.

Howard released a long statement via his agent on Friday explaining why as much as he wants to win his first championship, he doesn't want to play basketball until "we get things resolved."

"I agree with Kyrie. Basketball, or entertainment period, isn't needed at this moment, and will only be a distraction. Sure it might not distract us the players, but we have resources at hand [the] majority of our community don't have. And the smallest distraction for them, can start a trickle-down effect that may never stop. Especially with the way the climate is now. I would love nothing more than to win my very first NBA championship. But the unity of my people would be an even bet-



ter championship, that's just too beautiful to pass up. What better time than now for us to be focusing on our families? This is a rare opportunity that, I believe, we as a community should be taking full advantage of. When have

we ever had this amount of time to sit and be with our families? This is where our unity starts. At home! With family!! European colonization stripped us of our rich history and we have yet to sit down and figure us out. The

less distractions, the more we can put into action into rediscovering ourselves. Nations come out of families. Black/African-American is not a nation or nationality. It's time our families become their own nations. No basketball till

In this Jan. 13, 2020 file photo, Los Angeles Lakers center Dwight Howard, right, loses control of the ball as he shoots against Cleveland Cavaliers' John Henson, left, and Alfonzo McKinnie during the first half of an NBA game in Los Angeles.

we get things resolved," Howard said.

Howard has yet to decide if he will play in Orlando, per his agent.

The NBA is targeting a July 30 return at the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex in Orlando. The Lakers currently hold the No. 1 seed in the Western Conference.

Clippers guard Patrick Beverley weighed in on the discussion Sunday night, tweeting that if James wants to play basketball, they will play.

Beverley and James have had a beef on the court dating back years.

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to 2022.

Besides these tournaments, Sapong said Kiribati and Nauru are also joining the Commonwealth Games (Birmingham, United Kingdom) plus there will be two world events—the World Under 20 Championships (originally in Kenya from June 28 to July 3) and World Athletics Championships (in Eugene, Oregon from July 15 to July 24).

"We will also need to take into account the qualifying period for the World Championships, probably around June 27. These dates don't take into account the rescheduling of the Pacific Mini Games to 2022 and we also have to consider



NORTHERN MARIANAS ATHLETICS

In this file photo, participants in the Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships 2018 pose for a group photo at the conclusion of the tournament at the Oleai Sports Complex. Saipan was supposed to host the 2020 edition of the regional event, but the competition has been suspended due to the COVID-19 crisis.

the OAA Regional Championships," Sapong said.

The OAA president added that they are open to discussions with member federations to hear their concerns and the association is also taking into consideration the challenges other MFs, not just those in Micronesia, are facing.

"OAA has a commitment to the Pacific Mini Games, Micronesian Games, and the Oceania Regional Championships (Melanesian, Micronesian, Polynesian). The implications suggest that the timing of events need to be considered by all MFs rather than just the Micronesian MFs. MFs outside of Micronesia are already asking for some clarity around the dates," Sapong said.

"The challenges will be on

the availability of funding for federations to attend both the Pacific Mini Games and the Micronesian Games. They are funded from the same funding pool," he added.

The CNMI Pacific Mini Games Oversight Committee has proposed to move the quadrennial competition to 2022 in response to the Pacific Games Council's request to consider making changes with the event's dates to avoid conflict with next year's Tokyo Olympic Games. The 2022 Micronesian Games, on the other hand, is set between July 10 and Aug. 6, and according to the Micronesian Games Council, discussion on the possible rescheduling of the competition has yet to be made.

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ing up the board in the four-minute stoppage time.

Maxberry, on the other hand, had a pair of goals in the victory, scoring her first in the 28th minute after muffing several attempts and getting her second in the 65th, making the dominant win also a pitting ending for her.

"I felt like I came in full circle. We started the national team (2007) to try to encourage more women to play. The players I played with were the ones that Patty (Coleman) and I saw playing as young kids," said the Texas-based Maxberry.

"I can't believe I was asked to come back, work out, and play with a lot of young kids. I also can't believe we won and saw the benefits of the program that we helped start," the



GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

mother of three added. Meanwhile, Silberberger, one of the attackers on the team, was just thankful for

the opportunity to play for the national team for the last time before moving and starting her family life. She now lives

in Washington State with her two children and husband.



GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Members of the CNMI Women's National Team get high-fives from their male counterparts after beating Macau, 7-0.

in Washington State with her two children and husband.

"After playing for so long, sometimes you feel like the game is wearing you down.

But in that tournament, I remember how it's so much fun to play and share the field with everyone on the team. I treasured every minute I was able

to play," said Silberberger, who still could not get herself away from soccer, as she now coaches the junior varsity team in her school.



Playing for
free, salary
drop, lockout
possible

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Heartaches,
wild finish
at PGA Tour
return

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'Last Dance' for 3 NMI players



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Coming back to play for the CNMI Women's National Team for the last time is way up there in Carrie Schuler, Megan Silberberger, and Emily Maxberry's collection of great soccer memories.

The date was July 24, 2014 in a game versus Macau in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Football Association Training Centre in Harmon. All three scored in the CNMI's 7-0 trashing of Macau for the women's crew's first international win.

"It was kind of a special ending for my career with the NMI Women's National Team," said Schuler, who joined her former teammates on the winning squad in Episode 5 of *Footcast with Norman* to discuss their experiences in the competition, which host Norman Del Rosario considered as the three players' "Last Dance" with the national team.

"Coming back to play for the team at my age (late 20s) and facing new players and new coaches is such a different experience. However, there's one thing that remains constant—the love for the sport. Every player on the team has so much heart for the game, so being asked to come back and having the opportunity to work with the new faces, getting more offensive type of play, and winning our first international match were so amazing," said Schuler.

The former national team player, who now lives in Iowa with her two kids and husband Kirk, had an earlier record for the CNMI before the his-



GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
The CNMI's Megan Silberberger, right, gets away from her Macau defender.



GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
The CNMI's Emily Maxberry, right, fights for possession against a Guam player.

toric win over Macau. Schuler scored the women's team's first international goal in 2009 during the CNMI Women's National Football Team's in the EAFF Women's Football Championship 2010 Semifi-

nals Competition in Taiwan, incidentally, against Macau. When they faced Macau anew, Carrie put the cherry on top of their lopsided win after light-

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GUAM FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION
In this file 2014 file photo, CNMI's Carrie Schuler, right, dribbles against a Macau defender during their game in the Preliminary Round 1 of the 2015 EAFF East Asian Cup at the Guam Training Centre in Harmon.

Athletics faces schedule, funding challenges

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Islands in 2022 and in the Pacific Mini Games, which has been moved from 2021
Saipan will be hosting and

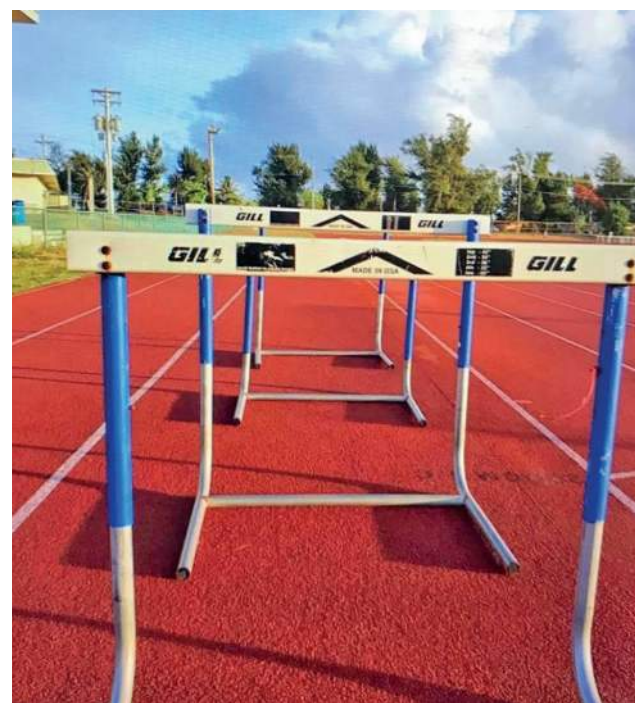
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With the COVID-19 crisis forcing either the cancelation or postponement of competitions, Oceania Athletics Association member federations, including the CNMI, see schedule and funding challenges ahead.

"There is a lot of overlap," Northern Marianas Athletics secretary general and OAA president Robin Sapong said.

The CNMI, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, and Palau compete in the Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships, which was supposed to take place on Saipan this month, but has been suspended indefinitely. They will also participate in the Micronesian Games in the Marshall



NORTHERN MARIANAS ATHLETICS
Hurdles equipment is lined up at the Oleai Sports Complex's track and field facility waiting for maintenance work.